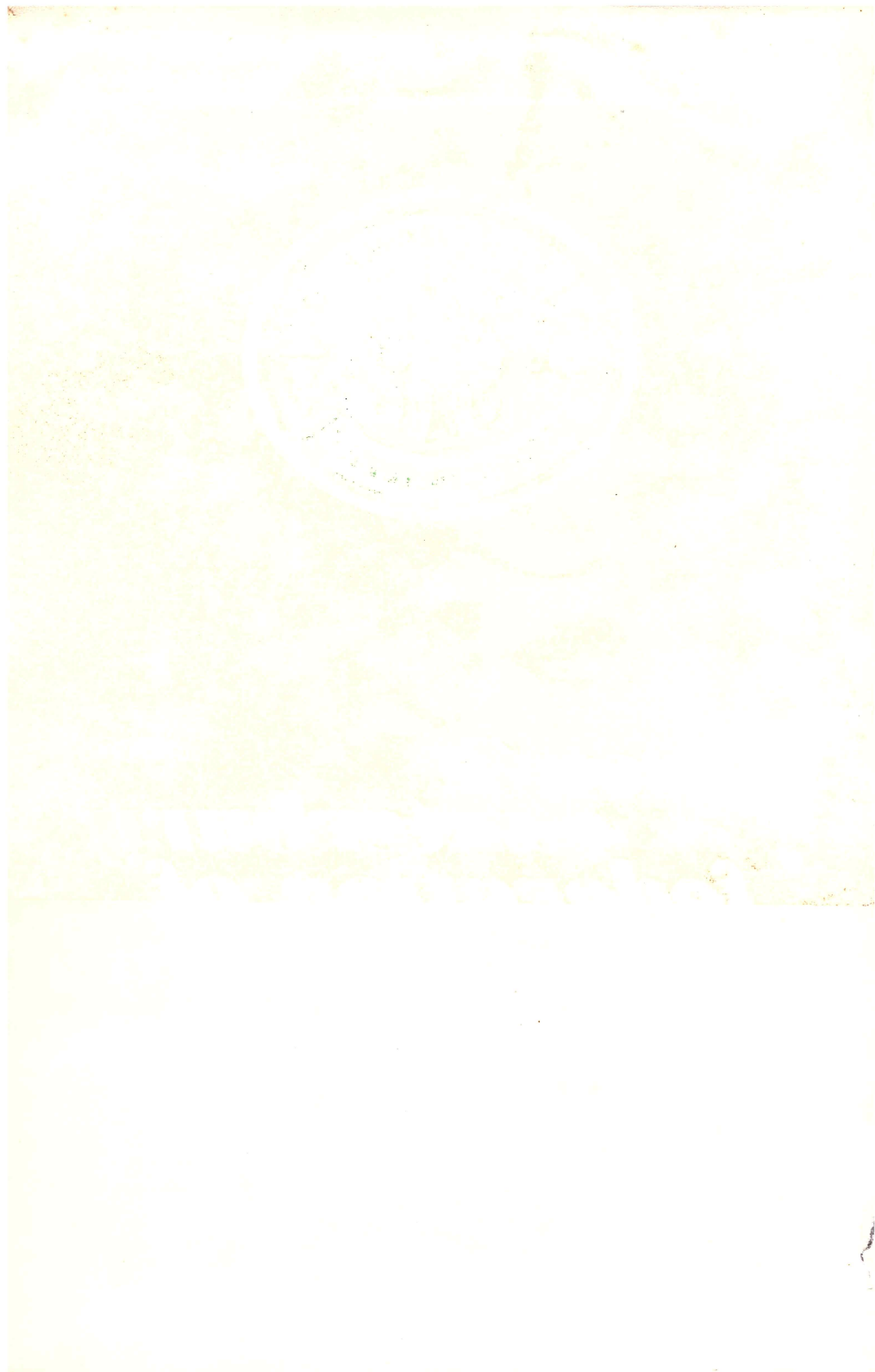




***south  
canterbury  
federation of  
the country  
women's institute  
1930 – 1970***





HISTORY OF THE  
SOUTH CANTERBURY FEDERATION OF  
NEW ZEALAND COUNTRY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE





HISTORY  
of the  
South Canterbury Federation  
of  
New Zealand  
Country Women's Institute

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# Foreword

IT IS A PRIVILEGE to have been invited to write the foreword to this History of the South Canterbury Federation of New Zealand Country Women's Institute.

The History is a contribution to the Golden Jubilee project of the Country Women's Institute movement in New Zealand and also records forty years of existence in South Canterbury.

Since the austerity days of depression and war when lonely Country Women were able to meet and demonstrate their talents and ingenuity, the progress of achievement has been carved with vigour, dedication and social responsibility.

South Canterbury Federation has a record of which they can be justly proud, an example of unselfish service and support for community affairs. In statistics alone it is a staggering record but more important it is proof of the high esteem in which our organisation is held.

This regard has been fostered and encouraged by leaders and members with a strong sense of duty and pleasure in helping others.

There have been many remarkable women associated with the establishment and progress of the federation all of whom have left their own mark of distinction. Their understanding friendship and personalities have stimulated and influenced many Institute careers. My own association with the South Canterbury Federation has been a memorable one and I look back with pleasure at the happy times and experiences I have enjoyed with old friends.

In these turbulent times the stability, simple objectivity and ideals of the C.W.I.'s are reflected in the revived interest in home crafts and handwork and the joys of creation from natural products.

This history is a valuable record of the achievements of the South Canterbury Federation, its Institutes and Groups. The challenge of progress has been accepted. While this

record is a memorial to the past we look forward to the future with resolution and confidence in our ability to uphold the best traditions of our organisation.

All concerned in the production of this history are to be congratulated. Much research and labour was involved but the result is well worth while. I hope it will be widely read in the district and I especially commend it to the younger generation whose women folk have given so much to the community and have enriched their own lives.

*April V. Kerr*



# ‘For Home and Country’

Drifting quietly to our shores, one day,  
There came a movement from far away,  
To unite our womenfolk, shy or gay,  
‘For Home and Country’.

The little motto that it chose  
Was nothing splendid or grandiose,  
But simple and sweet as lily or rose,—  
‘For Home and Country’.

The infant movement grew and saw  
The years of peace and the years of war,  
And still its motto as before —  
‘For Home and Country’.

Each member strives from day to day,  
To help her neighbours along life’s way,  
By using her talents as best she may,  
‘For Home and Country’.

At monthly meetings, she takes part  
With the aspirations, at the start  
Which she recites, with thankful heart,  
‘For Home and Country’.

Now fifty golden years have flown  
And the C.W.I. is widely known,  
For the seeds of kindness it has sown  
‘For Home and Country’.

M. D. MILLER, Kimbell C.W.I.



# Introduction

TO MARK THE GOLDEN JUBILEE of the Institute movement in New Zealand we decided to publish a book of the history of Institutes in our Federation and by happy coincidence this also marks forty years of Federation in South Canterbury.

I suppose no history has ever been written when everyone reading it decided it was complete and these histories will possibly be no exception. To each of you who reads this the fact that you remember these other names or occasions makes the whole memory complete for you.

These histories weave a rich tapestry of life in the country districts of South Canterbury over the last forty-odd years and it challenges us all, as Institute members, to continue weaving this tapestry of enjoyment, activity and generous giving through the years ahead.

May all who read this book receive the great pleasure that has been enjoyed by all those who had the privilege of compiling the history of Country Women's Institute in South Canterbury.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Ethel D. Glass". The script is cursive and elegant, with the first name "Ethel" written in a larger, more prominent hand than the last name "Glass".

Federation President





# History of South Canterbury Federation of C.W.I.

IN JUNE, 1930, the South Canterbury Federation of Women's Institute came into being and at its first half-yearly meeting held at Geraldine in November, 1930, 52 delegates attended, representing 29 Institutes. Mrs L. E. Williams, Woodbury, was the first president and the following were the first executive committee: Secretary, Miss N. Lysaght; treasurer, Mrs. S. C. Chisnall; committee, Mesdames G. A. M. MacDonald, W. C. Cooke, P. W. Hislop, J. Charles, R. Brodie, E. Hanna and Misses Withell and Ladbrooke. 46 delegates representing 26 Institutes from all parts of Canterbury and the West Coast attended the first annual meeting at Geraldine in April, 1931. Miss Stops a voluntary worker from England, spoke of the aims and objects of the movement, the duties of officers, links and lone members. On display at the meeting was an exhibition of articles made from scoured wool.

April 6, 1932, saw the formation of the North Canterbury Federation, extending from Ashburton to Kaikoura, and having its first Federation president, Mrs. W. Deans, Sheffield.

Institute members grew rapidly. In 1932 200 members representing 47 Institutes attended the annual meeting; by the half-yearly meeting there were 52 Institutes and by 1933, 60 Institutes flourished in the South Canterbury Federation.

In these early days, country dance festivals and choir competitions were held regularly and of interest also to all members were the exhibitions staged in arts and crafts, thrift articles and wool.

In 1935 Mid-Canterbury became a separate Federation with Mrs. F. Curtis as president. This left 45 Women's Institutes in the South Canterbury Federation of which 38 attended the Dominion Conference. Highlight of 1935 was the historical pageant held in the Timaru Gardens and organised by Miss E. L. Davies, at which groups re-enacted scenes from history.

Mrs. Alfred Watt, M.A., M.B.E., of Canada, visited South Canterbury in 1936. Mrs. Watt had founded the Women's Institute movement in Britain and at the time of her visit to New Zealand was World President of the Associated Country Women of the World. Mrs. Watt, who was accorded a civic

welcome by the Mayor of Timaru, chose as her subject: 'What the Country Women of the World are doing for peace'.

In that year also, South Canterbury won the Robert Young Cup for its hospitality scheme which had been launched and operated by Mrs A. H. Gillingham. A tree planting scheme was inaugurated with trees being planted along the main highway at Seadown and at Cave. Over the years more trees were planted along the highway at Rangitata and throughout the district to mark a coronation or milestone in Institute affairs.

In 1938, in recognition of their outstanding services to the Women's Institute movement, Mrs. L. E. Williams and Mrs. S. C. Chisnall were presented with Honours Badges. In that year, too, Waimate Federation was formed, leaving 28 Institutes in the South Canterbury Federation.

Nineteen thirty-nine saw the retirement as president of Mrs. L. E. Williams and the position was filled by Mrs S. C. Chisnall. In this year also an offer was made by the Stratheona board to train a housekeeper for help in country homes.

Adult education classes began in 1940 and in 1941 help was given by Institutes in the area to the Sailors' Rest for catering for merchant seamen.

Mrs. Chisnall retired as president in 1942 and Miss E. L. Davies was elected to the chair. Through these remaining war years Institute members were urged to grow vegetables and collect scrap metal, while in their own groups they made an outstanding contribution to the war effort by knitting, sending parcels to servicemen overseas and by support of the Patriotic Committee and the Red Cross.

Mrs. Gillingham's hospitality scheme flourished, enabling many to enjoy a holiday in different surroundings, but perhaps of greatest value must have been a scholarship scheme giving holidays to mothers of large families. This started in 1940, and by April, 1945, 26 mothers with 331 children between them had benefited from this scheme.

In 1946 Mrs. F. M. Martin succeeded Miss Davies as president and in recognition of their services Miss Davies and Mrs. Gillingham were awarded Gold Honours Badges.

Nineteen forty-seven saw the transfer of Otipua, Pareora, Fairview, and Gleniti Institutes from the Waimate Federation to South Canterbury. In that year, too, Mrs. A. H. Gillingham retired as organiser of the Hospitality Circle and the group travel scheme, having over the years organised a great number of trips all over New Zealand. Her position was filled by Mrs. W. H. Finlay. These post-war years saw great food shortages in Great Britain and the Institutes played their full part in assistance by sending fat and parcels of food.

In 1947 Mrs. R. Harper, Geraldine, became editor of Home and Country, a position she held until 1955.

The South Canterbury Co-ordinating Committee was formed in 1948, this being the beginning of a valuable amalgamation of the two movements for the good of country women without either losing its identity.

Mrs. Martin remained in office until 1950 when Mrs. E. W. Kerr was elected. During these years the emphasis was on culture, with a drama tutor visiting the district regularly, choir and drama festivals and an arts and crafts school; while the depot still flourished as a market for produce and a meeting place for members.

In 1953 Mrs. J. D. McPhedran was elected president and a Gold Honours Badge was awarded to Mrs. W. H. Finlay. By this time there were three junior circles in existence, two at the Timaru Technical College and one at Seadown. This year also saw the end of C.W.I. association with Stratheona. The Federation had 32 Institutes in 1954 with a total membership of 976. Special effort this year was the knitting of peggy squares for the Save the Children Fund. Mrs E. W. Kerr, a past Federation president, became a member of the Dominion Executive Committee, later to be Dominion Vice-President and when her term of office expired she became Dominion Liaison Officer.

Through the 1950's the number of Institutes rose to 33 and 1959 was the peak year of memberships with 1058 C.W.I. members. Floral art and millinery schools were run, and when Mrs. Markwick, Dominion President, visited the area in 1959, her address was on the A.C.W.W. Conference in Edinburgh.

The highlight of the 50's was the introduction during the term of office of Mrs. J. F. McKay of the eisteddfod. Interest mounted over the years with entries and standard becoming higher each year. This event has afforded an outlet for the many talents of the county women, giving them something outside their home to think about and work for.

In 1960 a banner competition was held and the design of the South Canterbury Federation banner chosen. It depicted Mt. Cook surrounded by the endless chain of friendship.

Mrs. W. Pearce became president in 1961, a position she occupied until 1964.

In 1963 South Canterbury was saddened by the passing of Mrs. J. A. McLeod. Mrs. McLeod had given long service to the Federation as an Executive member, as organiser of catering at annual and half-yearly council meetings, as representative to the co-ordinating committee, on the depot committee and the National Council of Women for many years, and as a voluntary organiser. In 1955, in recognition of her services to the C.W.I., a gift was presented to her. After her death country women of South Canterbury contributed to a memorial to Mrs. J. A.



McLeod. This memorial painting by A. A. Deans hangs in the foyer of Farming House, Timaru.

Mrs. E. D. Holt, Dominion President, was guest speaker for the Annual Meeting in 1965, when Mrs. C. J. Teale became president.

During the 1960's annual and half-yearly council meetings were held throughout the Federation in areas as far apart as Woodbury and Lake Tekapo. This seemed to stimulate interest and good attendances were recorded. For a few years field days were held with classes in cookery, handwork and flowers. At first these days were very popular but when entries became fewer they were discontinued and more handwork incorporated in the eisteddfod programme.

In June, 1968, Mrs. C. J. Teale, Federation president, died. Mrs Teale had served the movement at Institute Federation level for many years capably and graciously. An excellent cook, she was always in demand to demonstrate or judge.

Mrs. B. J. Glass was appointed chairwoman for the remainder of the year.

At the annual meeting, 1969, Mrs. Glass was elected president. That year saw the re-introduction of a choral festival with three Institute choirs taking part.

Miss E. L. J. Davies passed away in 1969. She had served the movement with drive and enthusiasm since its early years and was Federation president 1942-45. Miss Davies was best remembered by all for the historical pageant which she organised, the travel talks and report of an A.C.W.W. conference she gave and the great interest she always maintained in the depot.

From the very early days of the Federation valuable work had been done by the voluntary organisers. These ladies have formed Institutes, given advice and encouragement when the life of an Institute hung in the balance and at all times informed members of the aims and objects of the movement and officers on their duties.

Every alternate year new and accredited voluntary organisers have attended a school of procedure conducted by a Dominion executive officer and this has always been followed by schools for officers held in conjunction with group meetings. In 1969 an officers' school followed the school of procedure when officers and interested members from throughout the Federation met at the Cave Hall to be instructed in the duties of officers and procedure and later to enter into discussion on problems.

A tribute would be paid by all Institutes for the help and friendly counselling of voluntary organisers.

In 1960 the Mackenzie group made a presentation to Mrs. A. B. MacKenzie on her retirement as a V.O. She had served in this capacity for 23 years.



MRS. L. E. WILLIAMS





Through the years many of our members have helped and acted as advisory members to the Country Girls' Club, thus forming a valuable liaison between the two groups.

Forty years of C.W.I. activity in South Canterbury have now been completed. Some of these years have been good years but many were very difficult, yet in spite of all obstacles the Institute movement flourished and grew until today we have a strong body of country women firmly resolving to uphold the aims of this organisation, to give friendship or help in our own districts, to play our full part in the community and always to remember our motto:— 'For Home and Country'.

#### *Presidents*

1930-37:	Mrs L. E. Williams	1957-60:	Mrs. J. F. MacKay
1938-41:	Mrs. S. C. Chisnall	1961-64:	Mrs. W. Pearce
1942-45:	Miss E. L. Davies	1965-68:	Mrs. C. J. Teale
1946-49:	Mrs. F. M. Martin	1968 :	Mrs. B. J. Glass
1950-52:	Mrs. E. W. Kerr		(Chairwoman)
1953-56:	Mrs. J. D. McPhedran	1969-	Mrs. B. J. Glass

#### *Secretaries*

1930:	Miss Lysaght	1949-52:	Mrs. J. D. McPhedran
1931:	Miss Templar	1953-55:	Mrs. J. F. MacKay
1932-37:	Miss A. T. Williams	1956:	Mrs. E. Hooke
	and Miss Templar	1957-59:	Mrs. M. E. Challis
1938:	Mrs. A. G. Brown	1960-64:	Mrs. C. J. Teale
1939-41:	Miss A. T. Williams	1965-68:	Mrs. M. E. Challis
1942:	Mrs. F. M. Martin	1969:	Mrs. T. C. Brown
1943-45:	Mrs. W. L. Harrison	1970-	Mrs. A. G. Hill
1946-48:	Mrs. E. W. Kerr		

#### *Treasurers*

1930-39:	Mrs. S. C. Chisnall	1956:	Mrs. C. Cook
1940-43:	Miss D. Austin	1957-59:	Mrs. F. M. Martin
1944:	Mrs. Bell	1960:	Mrs. W. R. Pearce
1945:	Mrs. Morgan	1961-62:	Mrs. J. Richmond
1946-48:	Mrs. J. B. Smith	1963-64:	Mrs. C. Cook
1949-51:	Mrs. W. H. Finlay	1965-68:	Mrs. E. Craig
1952-55:	Mrs. R. L. Stokes	1969-	Mrs. I. Hurst

#### *Honours Badges*

Mrs. L. E. Williams	Mrs. S. C. Chisnall
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#### *Gold Honours Badges*

Miss E. L. J. Davies	Mrs. A. B. MacKenzie
Mrs. A. H. Gillingham	Mrs. J. A. McLeod
Mrs. W. H. Finlay	Mrs. A. Challis
Mrs. W. Pearce	Mrs. E. W. Kerr

### *Dominion Councillors*

1938-44: Mrs. S. C. Chisnall    1952-55: Mrs. W. H. Finlay  
1945-46: Mrs. A. B. McKenzie    1956-59: Mrs. Fordyce  
1947-51: Mrs. F. M. Martin    1960-64: Mrs. M. E. Challis

### *Dominion Executive*

Mrs. S. C. Chisnall

Mrs. E. W. Kerr

## The Depot

IN AUGUST, 1932, the Women's Institute Depot was opened in Timaru by Mrs. G. A. M. MacDonald, vice-president of the South Canterbury Federation. Mrs. MacDonald explained that the object of the depot was to help country women dispose of their handcrafts, produce and goods. Prime movers in this venture were Mrs. W. E. Mills, St. Andrews, and Mrs R. W. Irving, Mt. Nessing, and associated with them on the committee to establish the depot were Mesdames L. E. Williams, P. W. Hislop, G. A. M. MacDonald, H. Fisher and M. F. West and Miss M. Ferguson.

Mrs. McGuire was the first to take charge of the depot and her place was taken later by Mrs McAllister who gave outstanding service over 22 years. She was joined in later years by Miss McAllister.

Started in the depression and continuing through the difficult years of the war, the depot filled a great need for country women and others as it provided a welcome change in the menu for those who came to buy and equally welcome cash for those who came to sell. Through its tea-rooms it also provided a pleasant meeting place for all country women.

Over the years the most popular articles for sale were hand-work, eggs and dressed poultry the latter being particularly popular at Christmas.

The depot closed down as an Institute shop in August, 1969, having over the 27 years provided a market and meeting place for Institute members.

# Histories of the Various Groups

## Geraldine

AS FAR AS THE RECORDS REVEAL the group was under way in 1935. The definite date of forming is not known as early records have been lost. In 1935 an organised trip took members to Mt. Cook. A fancy dress party was also held that year. In 1939 a review was held by the South Canterbury Federation C.W.I.'s. It was staged in Timaru Park in which Geraldine group members took a prominent part. The review was called 'Britannia's Review' the most spectacular and colourful outside show ever staged in Timaru or elsewhere in the Dominion — the costumes were really marvellous. The Geraldine group's part in scene 5, 'Prelude to a Midsummer Night's Dream'. Photos are still in the Pioneer Book kept by Orari C.W.I. The producer of the scene was Mrs. F. Grayburn who was at that time a member of Orari C.W.I. Mrs. G. A. M. MacDonald, as Queen Elizabeth I; others in costume were Mesdames Ritchie, Bennett and Misses Wilks, Vincent, Tindall, Blakiston and Cruickshanks. Geraldine group have always had a little wanderlust in their activities. Trips have been very well patronised and there have been some tours made over the years even though they have only been for the day. The group has seven C.W.I.'s: Pleasant Valley, Gapes Valley, Peel Forest, Geraldine, Woodbury and Orari. Flower shows have been held annually; a cup for the C.W.I. with most points over the whole show was presented by the late Mrs. F. W. Morgan, and competitive interest is very pleasing to the conveners. The group has always tried to do its best for the Federation whenever called on for any duties.

This year, being the golden jubilee of our movement, many older members must have had some wonderful memories of the early days when they let nothing but illness bar them from their meetings. Many who have gone to their eternal reward have left behind the memory and the evidence of their work such as the conveners who toiled so hard to make a success of their work. Mrs. F. W. Morgan (deceased) was the first convener of Geraldine group, followed by Mrs. A. J. Kennedy (still a very active member of Woodbury C.W.I.). Mrs. Watson (deceased), who will be remembered by many for her go-ahead tactics, Miss Rule (deceased), Mrs. Brenton and Mrs. Cairns who were also

very competent conveners, and the present convener, Mrs. Earl who would like to thank all the C.W.I.'s in the group for their support in group work.

In conclusion, we sincerely hope that the Geraldine group will carry on and flourish as it has done at present and in the past and continue to bring such happiness and entertainment to the future members as it has to the past and present ones.

## Levels

THE PLEASANT POINT GROUP comprising Pleasant Point W.I., Rosewill W.I., Taiko W.I. and Washdyke W.I. was formed in October 1932. Mrs. W. T. Taylor of Pleasant Point, group convener and Miss H. Kime of Pleasant Point, secretary. To raise funds a group concert was held and a singing competition was a highlight, also Drama festivals.

In 1935 there were seven Institutes in the group and quilts were made for relief and charities.

Bays were entered in Winter Shows also in A. and P. Shows. In 1949 eleven institutes formed the group which changed to the name of Levels Group. Drama was still to the fore and Group festivals were held annually. Support was given to Country Women's Institute Depot and South Canterbury Federation shop days. Annual Group trips became popular in 1956 and still are in 1970; sometimes twice a year. Group meetings are well attended with sixty members present and some varied programmes are experienced.

In 1938 savouries were demonstrated and again in 1970. This art is always popular.

I pay tribute to the early ladies for their enthusiasm and leadership, to all members whose keen interest and support is so willingly given. I trust you will continue to go from strength to strength and carry on in fine Institute spirit.

### *Group Convenors:*

1932-36	Mrs. W. T. Taylor	1948-	Mrs. C. Cook
1936-41	Mrs E. L. McLeod	1949-54	Mrs. W. H. Finlay
1941-46	Mrs. G. H. Steven	1954-65	Mrs. A. Challis
1946-48	Mrs. N. Bailey	1965-70	Mrs. K. Clarke

## Mackenzie

THE MACKENZIE GROUP was formed in 1932 but there is no record of which Institutes composed the group. Cave C.W.I. was in the Mackenzie Group then but later transferred to the Levels Group.



There is no record of the early conveners but Mrs. J. O'Neill was convener 1943-51, Mrs. L. F. N. Ward 1951-61, Mrs. A. Mills 1961-63, Mrs. T. C. A. Brown 1964-66, and since that date each Institute in the Group is convener for a year, a practice which is proving satisfactory. Two meetings are held each year in February and August and these are well attended. There are nine Institutes in the group.

In 1960 the Mackenzie Group made a presentation to Mrs. A. B. MacKenzie who had been a Voluntary Organiser for 23 years. In that year too the Group planted trees on Council property to mark the jubilee of the County Council.

In 1964 Mrs G. Hunter-Weston, Lake Tekapo, donated a shield for competition among the Institutes of the Group at the Mackenzie Show. Each year there is a different theme for these bays and they create much interest.

In 1960 there was a move afoot in the Group to form a Mackenzie Federation on account of the great distances the outlying C.W.I. delegates had to travel to Federation Annual and Half-Yearly meetings but after much thought and discussions it was decided that we could continue as a Group in the South Canterbury Federation.

The Mackenzie Group is a sound useful Group providing a link between Institutes in the area.

## Temuka

In 1937 a committee of delegates from the six Women's Institutes in the Temuka area met to discuss the formation of a Temuka Group. Delegates were present from Temuka, Winchester, Arowhenua, Milford, Seadown and Rangitira Valley. All were enthusiastic and throughout the next year the nucleus of our now thriving group was made.

These early members did much to help and encourage our younger members. But difficulties in transport and lack of funds forced this early group to go into recess. Nearly six years later the Temuka Group was revived and for the last twenty-five years has proved its worth in our W.I. activities. At this first meeting Mrs. V. Brookland was appointed group convener and this position she held for thirteen years. Institutes in this district each were hostesses in turn and this has continued until the present time.

During these earlier days our Group flower show was initiated and throughout the years this has proved one of our most popular functions. Much of interest throughout these years was held at group level: Schools of Procedure, School of Art and Group Travel. These have all been continued through

until the present time. In 1959 Mrs. V. Brookland retired and Mrs. D. A. Pearce was appointed Group Convener. During this period Arowhenua went into recess leaving six W.I. in the group. Much was accomplished under Mrs. Pearce's guidance. In 1960 Mrs. Pearce became South Canterbury Federation President so relinquished her position as group convener. Mrs. S. Green was then appointed and is still the present convener. During this time Rangitira Valley and Waitohi amalgamated and are known as Waitohi Districts. This now leaves us with five W.I's in the Temuka Group. We look back with pride to those early members whose fore-sight and encouragement has made the Temuka Group such a worthwhile part of W.I. work.



# Histories of the Various Institutes Within the Groups

## Allandale

HOW MANY of us pick up the newspaper and the first thing we look at is the births, deaths, marriages and birthdays, etc.

Here is an interesting one to look back on:—

On Wednesday, November 9, 1932, 2.30 p.m. at Allandale a Women's Institute burst forth into new life, assisted by Mrs. West, President of Fairlie C.W.I., Mrs. L. E. Williams, President of the Woodbury W.I. and Mrs. Chisnall, Treasurer of S.C. Federation and at that time the Dominion Treasurer of N.Z. C.W.I.

The officers elected were:— President, Mrs. J. P. O'Neill; Vice-President. Mrs. A. Hall; Secretary, Miss Isitt; Treasurer, Miss Upton.

At the first meeting held on December 14, 1932 there were 26 members. A family picnic was held in January 1933 at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. F. Carter's at 'Te Puni', Sherwood.

The first Institute baby, Ian Alister Sadler, was born and was welcomed at the February meeting, 1933. The first treasurer was farewelled also at this meeting. Demonstrations during this first year included silk art, raw wool making, sea grass work, pastry making, brushes from horse hair, making paper flowers and smocking.

One early motto was 'Blessed are they who pay their subscriptions promptly'. A delegate was sent to the Dominion Conference held in Christchurch and £3 paid towards expenses. Membership was over 30 by the end of the year. The First Birthday Party was held on November 8, 1933.

The Women's Institute paid the School Committee 10 shillings per year for the use of the schoolroom for their meetings.

Looking back through the visitors book made interesting reading with many well-known Mackenzie Country family names, including an authoress of note, the late Mrs. W. R. Goulter. The most frustrating part of the research was the absence of the year when dating meetings.

Prices for admission to dances in the 1930's was ladies 1/-, gents 1/6, school children 6d. What would we pay for wedding

presents today! The first Institute bride, Miss O'Reilly was given a handsome gift costing 7/6. During the early depression years competitions were simple and inexpensive. Making a gift costing not more than 1/-, making a garment for not more than 5/-, and an annual competition of potato planting. Each member was given a potato and planted same and when dug up the winner was the one with most potatoes.

By 1934 the membership was 49 members, 32 married or senior members and 17 single or junior members. (There was no C.G.C. in those days).

In 1935 a levy of 2d. per member was sent to Wellington H.Q., towards travel expenses for a delegate to attend the A.C.W.W. Conference in Washington, U.S.A. In 1936 £3 was paid to the Institute Delegate to attend the W.I. Dominion Conference held in Dunedin.

Marigold was chosen as the floral emblem for Allandale W.I. Quoits was a popular game played at each meeting in the early years.

To commemorate the Coronation of King George VI a senior member planted an Oak tree in the Allandale School grounds on May 13, 1937, and Mrs McConnell gave a reading 'The Crowning of our King and Queen'. On July 8, 1937, Mrs. Jas O'Neill planted a rose bush in the school garden.

Practical demonstrations including bookbinding, mop-making from wool, butter making, stuffing a neck of mutton, making flowers from wood fibre, killing and dressing of a fowl, re-covering of eiderdowns, making of gloves from rabbit skins.

Allandale Institute supported the half-yearly meetings and delegates even though restricted by roads and not many motor cars attended. One member cycled from Cattle Valley through Raincliff and Hazelburn over rough roads to catch a train at Pleasant Point, in order to attend the Annual Meeting of the S.C. Federation.

A Christmas Party was held for the children of the district with Santa Claus making his appearance to give each child a gift and sweets (home-made in the early days).

With the advent of improved roads and now motor transport the smaller schools were being consolidated to Fairlie and between 1939 and 1942 the small country areas lost their schools.

In 1939 the Institute was requested to pay £1 per year rental of the schoolroom. The war years came and many sons of members and men from the Allandale District answered the call to serve overseas. The institute regularly sent parcels to soldiers overseas and members knitted balaclavas. A fruit cake was sent to each soldier from the district the month of their birthday.

Support was given to 'Stratheona' Hostel used for training girls in household skills near Pleasant Point.

The war years had brought great change to the district, with members leaving or retiring and new brides in the second generation of families settling and becoming members. At the end of the war the junior members were tending to go away seeking employment and the junior section lapsed and the membership fluctuated considerably. Meetings were held in the evenings for a few years but changes came again with meetings held in the afternoons until the mid 1960's.

The late 1940's brought a rise in prices with admission to dances up to 2/-. During the year 1945, 1946 and 1947, the Alandale Institute had the distinction of winning the prize for having the most babies born to members. (Post war population explosion?) In 1946 found a tightening of belts as the expenses paid for the Conference Delegate that year was £2/10/-.

The coming-of-age the Twenty-first Birthday was held on November 11, 1953 when Mrs. McPhedran, Federation President presented Mrs. J. P. O'Neill (the foundation president) with a Good Service Badge. A gift was given to the first Institute bride Mrs. Gerry O'Neill and a gift was sent to Mr. Ian Sadler, the first Institute baby.

The 1950's brought the boom prices for wool with yet another rise in prices. Admissions to dances were now 3/6 for gents and 2/6 for ladies.

In 1956 evidence of the affluence of the Institute was when the lucky delegate to Dominion Conference Mrs. W. H. Campbell was paid £30 expenses to go to Auckland.

In 1957 the Twenty-fifth Birthday Party was presided over by the then president Mrs. J. Eggleton and the foundation president Mrs. J. O'Neill read the original minutes and told many amusing incidents 'over the years'. Foundation members present that day included Mesdames R. Wareing, T. B. Crampton, J. J. O'Connor and J. Hall. Each were presented with sprays.

Moving on into the 1960's saw a greater interest being taken in wool, its handling and selling as well as its use. The wool board in conjunction with C.W.I.'s and W.D.F.F.'s held a woolcraft competition. Allandale members have supported this and in 1964 one of its members Mrs. E. W. Jones won the Gold Medal Award for N.Z. in the wool day dress section and also gained third place in the home spun section with a jersey. In 1968 this same member attended the Twelfth Tri-ennial Conference of A.C.W.W. held in Michigan U.S.A.

Now in 1970 at the maturing age of 37 the Allandale Institute continues to flourish with a membership of 28. Several are wives and daughters of second and third generation families of foundation members. Names still continuing the good work are those of Crampton, O'Neill, McConnell, Harvey (nee Hall), Mackintosh and Archibald.

Many good service badges have been earned and awarded



over the years to members and so the work of C.W.I. continues in Allandale although a new threat seems to have come with the modern advent of amalgamation of farms in the district.

May the next decade be as rewarding as the past for members as well as the joy it has given to the writer in the research done to compile this history of the Allandale Institute.

## Burkes Pass

SOME THIRTY-THREE YEARS AGO on April 8, 1937, a meeting of the women of the district was convened by Mrs. E. Clark with a view to forming a Womens Institute at Burkes Pass. The meeting was well attended and, present were Mrs. L. E. Williams, then President of the South Canterbury Federation, Mrs. A. B. MacKenzie and Mrs. L. E. West voluntary organisers, also visitors from Kimbell and Sherwood Downs. Mrs. MacKenzie who was voted to the chair expressed pleasure at the invitation to Burkes Pass and introduced the speaker Mrs. L. E. Williams, who gave an interesting address, explaining the early history of the Institute movement and its aims and objects. Mrs. Mackenzie and Mrs. West both spoke briefly.

When all present heard the address given Miss Anderson proposed that an Institute be formed at Burkes Pass, and this was seconded by Miss Nina MacKintosh. Meetings were to be held the second Friday of every month, and girls reaching the age of fifteen and over be eligible to join.

The first officers and committee were:—President, Mrs. Scott; Secretary, Mrs. Clarke; Treasurer, Miss Anderson; Committee, Mesdames Whyte, McKinnon, Willetts and Miss Grace MacKintosh; Home and Country, Miss Nina MacKintosh; Sale Table, Mrs. Whyte, Competition Steward, Mrs. Allan, Hostess Convener, Mrs. Anderson.

This Institute was the second last formed by Mrs MacKenzie as a voluntary organiser in the South Canterbury Federation, and was also the nearest one to Mt. Cook at that time. As residents of the Mackenzie Country members chose the Scotch Thistle as their flower emblem and decorated their cloth and banner with Mackenzie tartan. The cloth made by Miss Anderson is dark green with Mackenzie tartan across each corner and over the years each member has worked her name on in yellow. The banner is a lighter green, bound with Mackenzie tartan and the Scotch Thistle. This work was done by Miss Ena Don.

Throughout the 33 years of its existence the Institute has contributed to all worthy causes. During the war parcels were sent to all the local soldiers overseas: Knitting for various

patriotic causes was done, and food parcels and tins of fat were sent to England. At Christmas time there is a high tea and a Christmas tree and presents for all the children of the district. When the Mackenzie Collie Dog Club holds its Annual Trials the Institute members and other helpers do the catering for the three days; this is both a source of revenue and a service to the community.

Nine members have passed on since its inception. Four have been recipients of Good Service Badges. Various trophies are competed for in the competitions each year.

The following were foundation members of the Institute which had 20 members.

Mesdames: W. Scott, E. Clark, A. Ballantyne, T. McCarthy, J. Whyte, P. Allan, R. Green, J. Willetts, A. J. McKinnon, Anderson, T. J. Seay, A. B. Ross, C. Kilgour, E. Smart.

Misses: B. Anderson, E. Don, M. Don, W. Greene, G. MacKintosh and N. MacKintosh.

In this year 1970 it is worthy to note that the present president Mrs. Max McCarthy is a daughter-in-law of the late Mrs. T. McCarthy and the treasurer is Mrs. Donald Willetts a daughter-in-law of Mrs. J. Willetts.

## Cave

FORTY YEARS AGO conditions of country living were such that women especially were often lonely and lacked stimulation of mind which new ideas and fellowship with others inevitably bring. It is therefore not difficult to realise that there existed an opportunity to draw together all the women of the district regardless of creed or political affiliation.

To this end in the early thirties Mrs. J. Little after much talk and some opposition convened a meeting of all the women of the district in the vicinity of Cave to hear Mrs. L. E. Williams of Woodbury and her friend Miss Stopps an English women talk of the Women's Institute Movement throughout England well established in the North Island and in its infancy in South Canterbury. The ideals and aims 'For Home and Country' and encouragement of homemaking in all its aspects, exchange of ideas, handcrafts and cultural activities made such an appeal that the Cave branch of the Women's Institute was formed in 1932.

Mrs. Malthus was elected first president, Miss D. Kerr secretary and Mrs. D. Kerr treasurer. The branch flourished with membership reaching 50 and the first Institute baby was Rosamund Malthus. The floral emblem was the marigold. Apart from the monthly meetings visits were made to neighbouring

C.W.I.'s and W.D.F.F. branches to birthday parties and delegates attended group and federation meetings. Many activities have become an integral part of each years programme e.g. Anzac wreaths, collecting for Blind and C.O.R.S.O., the eisteddfod, the Christmas party and show bays.

From early days of the Institute gifts of many kinds have been collected for distribution to charitable organisations and since 1963 the members annually entertained elderly citizens from Timaru. Another annual event is the help given to meals on wheels in Timaru when members and ex-members living in Timaru deliver meals, a slice of cake and a cheery word.

On many occasions members have been called on to help with catering for the opening of the hall or a tug-of-war while since 1956 catering for the Levels Dog Trials has provided food for the men and finance for the Institutes in this way providing a service for the community. At first conditions were primitive indeed and difficult in inclement weather but today with a roof over our heads a range and two sinks everything is very convenient.

When invited to form a link in the chain of friendship around the world Cave chose the nearest W.I. to Cave in Yorkshire, England. Market Rasen, Linconshire was the nearest W.I. and since July 1937 a very active link has been forged with letters, parcels of food, fat or clothing in war times and the exchange of visits by members. A brass bell used at meetings of our Institute is a tangible reminder of the friendships that exist.

In 1949 Cave C.W.I. in conjunction with Cannington W.D.F.F. sponsored a child — a little Greek girl. This sponsorship was later transferred to an Austrian boy but when he was placed in a home it lapsed and at present Cave makes a donation to the Federations sponsored child.,

During the war members knitted and sent parcels to servicemen overseas and collected scrap iron.

Over the years the Institute has planted trees in the school grounds, church grounds and the Domain to mark two Coronations as well as assisting with the planting of kowhais along the main road at Rangitata.

Through the years the Cave C.W.I. have been very active; taking part in the Historical Pageant organised by Miss Davies; in 1939 advocating the eradication of hydatids and presenting a remit to this effect; presentaing drama evenings; assisting with models and frocks for a cavalcade of fashion in Timaru; opening of the Cave Hall and the projects that went into making this possible.

Members who over the years have given outstanding service are Mrs. D. Kerr who was treasurer for 25 years; Mrs. Malthus first president; Mrs. J. Richmond, office bearer and member and



treasurer of S.C. Federation Executive. Mrs. J. Little who convened the first meeting was later president and secretary; Mrs. D. Paterson an able secretary; Mrs. E. Esler, who has made sprays for a numbers of years and won the Dominion woolcraft competition, and Mrs. E. W. Kerr former president, vice-president and later a dominion liason officer. Mrs. Kerr is now chairman of the regional co-ordinating committee.

We look forward to the next 50 years with confidence and the hope that our children will build yet another story on these well laid foundations.

## Claremont

CLAREMONT is an undulating farming district about seven miles west of Timaru. The first man to settle on the land at Claremont was Captain Robert George Davies Tosswill from England. During 1867 he bought 3000 acres of the original Levels run and named it Claremont Estate after a minor Royal residence 15 miles from London. About 1911-1912 the Claremont Estate was broken up into smaller farms, none larger than 300 acres in size. Claremont today comprises this area and the land lying to the east and north of it, divided into 32 farms. On September 23, 1933, a meeting was convened in the Claremont School by Mrs. Mills of St. Andrews (in the absence of Mrs. Williams who then was president of the South Canterbury Federation) for the purpose of forming an Institute. There were 22 women interested in becoming members and a committee was elected as follows:—

*President:* Mrs. G. Selbie

*Vice-President:* Mrs. A. Seyb

*Secretary and Treasurer:* Mrs. C. Greig

*Committee Members:*

Mrs. Greig, Miss Armstrong, Mrs. Black, Mrs. Esler, Mrs. Casey.

Miss Armstrong was the first delegate to conference, held in Auckland. The annual subscription was to be 2/-; at this time, one pound of tea and two pound of sugar cost the Institute 3/3!

The first baby born to a member after the beginning of each Institute became the 'Institute Baby', and Master Geoffrey McConnell was awarded this honour. We are pleased to say that he is married and is still living in our district in the old home of his great-grandparents, and he still has the Institute spoon which was presented to him then.

Membership over the years has varied from eleven at its lowest to 31 which is the current and highest number of members.



Competitions and talks have been held all through the years. Many of the early hand-crafts are no longer of interest and we found that few of us had ever heard of some, such as reed-loom and macrame work, the crocheting of mats from old silk stockings, egg-shell mosaic making and hair-pin work. Some of our recent meetings have included talks on decimal currency, antiques, New Zealand gem-stones and Ikebana and it is noticeable that today's travel talks are accompanied by the showing of slides or movies.

An interesting event occurred in 1938 when a washing-machine was demonstrated to our members, something which though unusual then, we all today accept as a very necessary and basic piece of household equipment.

Competitions have always been well supported over the years and we have been fortunate in that two members, Mrs P. R. Talbot and Mrs. A. Seyb donated silver cups as annual trophies and a third trophy was purchased to commemorate our Twenty-fifth Jubilee in 1958.

The C.W.I. rewards its long serving members with Good Service Badges and we are proud to record that Mrs. A. Seyb, Mrs. P. R. Talbot, Mrs. C. Black, Mrs. L. J. Wilson, Mrs. P. B. Gray, Mrs. G. Davie and Mrs. J. Gibson have all earned this distinction. Mrs. Davie has been a member of the S.C. Executive for five years.

In the early years, Miss Armstrong, Mrs W. White, Mrs McFedries and Miss Fowler were prominent workers for our Institute and Mrs Casey, Mrs. W. Black, Mrs. McConnell and Mrs. D. Linton have in turn been our pianists over the years.

It is traditional that Institutes should help others and Claremont has helped a long list of organisations with gifts of money or goods over the years, beginning with the Relief Society and the Mayoress Fund for Needy Families, the Lepers, the Institute for the Blind, the Stratheona Hostel, many of the war efforts; when parcels were packed and sent to the ten local boys serving with the forces overseas and to our link in Yorkshire; and in more modern times, meals-on-wheels, the Rice-bowl Appeal, a sponsored child and the St. John Ambulance are among many others. The Institute held its meetings in the old Claremont School until 1956 when the Education Board built a new school; the board does not allow the school to be used for public meetings and so the Claremont district including our members worked hard to raise money for a new hall. This was achieved in 1962 when the hall was finished at a cost of \$18,000 and since then the Institute has held its meetings in the comfortable and warm surrounding of the hall. In the early days, wood had to be chopped and taken to boil the copper to make tea for all functions — an inconvenience it is hard to imagine now we merely turn on the zip at a switch! Throughout

the years, the Institute has helped the school committee, both by donations and by catering for school functions such as the concerts and fancy dress parties. The school committee and the C.W.I. combined to hold euchre evenings for many years, sharing the proceeds but all enjoying a great deal of fun in the social side of these evenings! The Institute too, held a Spring Flower Show in the school until it was discontinued in 1957.

A picnic for members and their families has been held most years and our birthday has been celebrated in a number of ways including socials and visits to the theatre to see some local drama. One memorable one took the form of a halloween party, when the committee suitably dressed as witches presented the Witches' scene from 'Macbeth'. From time to time members have presented plays both for drama competitions and for our own enjoyment. All members of the Claremont C.W.I. congratulate the Women's Institute on its first fifty years in New Zealand; and are looking forward to the future when Institute meetings will continue to provide companionship for country women who believe in and work for our motto 'For Home and Country'.

Members as at March 3, 1970: Mrs. K. Clare, Mrs. D. Linton, Mrs. R. Wills, Mrs. R. White, Mrs. G. Davey, Mrs. P. Kelynack, Mrs. B. Fahey, Mrs. G. McAuley, Mrs. J. Weller, Mrs. B. Black, Mrs. N. Gould, Miss S. Gould, Mrs. R. Hall, Mrs. D. Talbot, Mrs. J. Stocker, Mrs. J. McVey, Mrs. J. Carrol, Mrs. L. Wilson, Mrs. C. Black, Mrs. J. Satterthwaite, Mrs. B. Scarlett, Mrs. N. Bowman, Mrs. P. Talbot, Mrs. C. McClintock, Mrs. P. Melhopt, Mrs. P. Shearer, Mrs. R. Selbie, Miss P. Selbie, Mrs. B. Scott, Mrs. P. McGurk, Mrs. G. Ward.

## Fairlie

INSTITUTE FORMED, June 20, 1930.

First officers: President, Mrs. M. MacMillan; Vice-President: Mrs. G. Lyons; Secretary, Mrs. M. R. West; Treasurer, Mrs. G. Fraser; Committee, Mesdames J. Trotter, L. M. Carter, J. Annis, Mitchell, Manchester and A. B. MacKenzie.

December 3, 1930: First link letter received from Fairlie Institute, Ayrshire, Scotland. Over the years Fairlie have had many letters from the following links: Denton, Preston, Dunham-Hill, Langley, Northchurch, Winscombe and Meadvale. During the war years many parcels were sent to the links.

April 1931: Institute exhibited arts and crafts at the Mackenzie A. and P. Show. Miss Stopps visited Fairlie C.W.I. and reported that we had the largest membership of the Canterbury Federation.

1932: Members send goods and arts and crafts to be sold at the depot in Timaru. Fairlie sent socks to men working in an unemployed camp at 'Pusey' on Geraldine-Fairlie State Highway and the cost was 2/11 for two pair.

1935: Institute banner was created and first used at a conference held in Dunedin in 1936.

1935: Members took part in a pageant (Old England) held in Geraldine. A drama group and folk dancing was formed.

1936: Robert Young Rose Bowl was won by South Canterbury Federation. Fairlie held the cup as Mrs. A. H. Gillingham's Hospitality Circle was the project that was the means of the cup being awarded to S.C. Federation. During the war years large numbers of parcels were sent to N.Z. soldiers overseas.

1944: Members provided soup for 55 school children daily during the winter. Institutes Spinning Circle knitted pullovers and stockings and sent them to Fairlie boys serving in the Merchant Navy.

The following members have served on the South Canterbury Executive: Mesdames A. H. Gillingham, J. Siegert, J. Gray, L. F. N. Ward, A. B. MacKenzie, A. Mills and F. H. Guilford.

Good Service Badges have been awarded to the following members: J. Siegert, A. B. Mackenzie, A. Mills, T. Monahan, J. Simmers, W. Cuthill and J. Hall.

Mrs. A. B. MacKenzie is Fairlie's only foundation member and is able to attend most meetings.

## Fairview

IN JULY 19, 1934 a meeting was called for the purpose of forming a Fairview Country Womens' Institute; 30 intending members were present. Mrs. A. P. Kelland was elected as our first president with Mrs. E. Butchers as secretary. The meetings were held on the second Wednesday in the month in the Fairview Hall and are still held as such today. In those first years the committee meetings were held at the president's home 'The Barton'. Drama was very much to the fore in those early days. We read where in February, 1935, the junior members were hostesses.

February, 1936 saw the purchase of material; green and gold, Fairview colours which was made into a table cover for the president's table. The cover has a green centre with gold bands, sprays of gold flowers embroidered on the corners of the green, also in one corner the initials F.W.I.

Our banner, June 1936. Base of black silk poplin with gold fringe. On the top 'Fairview' embroidered on a gold scroll in





Pageant 1935 — Fairlie Group

Delegates to Conference, 1964







South Canterbury Visit to Southland'  
Mrs. J. A. Martin, Organiser

green; below the maple leaf and marigold then in green and gold lettering W.I., below which are two hands in the hand-shake of friendship. Just above the gold fringe are the words 'For Home and Country'.

In 1937, the president expressed the wish that all girls who had left school and had not reached the age of sixteen were welcome as visitors to the Institute.

Two trees were planted in the hall grounds to commemorate the coronation.

Our first link was formed in 1937 with North Tawton, Devon, England.

The president gave the February 1938 meeting over to the young people for the afternoon and Miss M. Smith presided.

In December, 1938, a report was given on a meeting held at Makikihi to form a new Federation to be known as the Waimate Federation, and the Fairview W.I. joined in with the present Institutes in that district, making a total of 19 in the federation.

Pennies were collected in June, 1939 for the memorial to Canterbury Women Pioneers.

A challenge cup was donated in August, 1939, by Mrs. A. P. Kelland. The cup is for the most points in the year's competitions.

Drama was very active in 1940. Four other Institutes took part with us in a drama evening.

1939 and petrol restriction; demonstrators unable to come. The hostesses for the early meetings provided the afternoon tea, but now with the restrictions it was decided that all members bring a plate towards afternoon tea.

March 1940 saw the start of a very busy era in what was called the soldiers corner. Parcels were sent to the local boys serving overseas. It was suggested that each member donate 3d. and then later 6d. per month instead of giving gifts in kind for soldiers parcels.

The wandering shilling competition was introduced in July, 1940, and is still held today. When this competition was first started the money was for a sick-chair fund.

1941: Country Womens' Travel Group Holiday Fun for the mother of the largest family. Fairview nominated Mrs. H. B. Dale, and she travelled to Queenstown with the group. Fairview W.I. also started the lending library this year.

It was decided in June, 1942 to take money out of the Library Fund and also to run a card party to cover the cost of Soldiers' parcels. We were asked to collect old files and waste rubber. Members to bring biscuits to be sent to the boys. The next of kin of the men of the district serving in the forces were the guests at the February meeting, 1942.

A Good Service Badge for Mrs Kelland would not be available until after the war owing to the shortage of metal in 1943.



Afternoon tea to be plain with no cake.

In 1943 members were asked to help with supper at the Home-guard ball and half of proceeds to go towards soldiers parcels. That year a Christmas cake was sent to each Fairview soldier overseas. At this time two parcels were being sent each month.

Biscuits for afternoon tea; members to pay 9d. each for the purchase of a tin of biscuits.

In April, 1945 an Anzac wreath was placed on the Fairview School Memorial Gates and each year thereafter.

Members were also asked to bring fat for Britain in June, 1946.

Also in 1946 a new link with Womens' Rural Institute, Ewes in Scotland with whom we still keep in touch over the years. Christmas cakes, fat, tinned food, books and calendars have been sent to them.

We had a collection of soap which was to be sent to England.

A vase for the monthly cluster bloom was donated by Mrs. Vincent

In December 1946, we were invited to join the South Canterbury Federation.

Mrs. Duff wrote to us in July 1947, informing us that we have been placed in the Pleasant Point Group.

In 1948, Mrs. E. J. Butchers gave a vase for the monthly competition.

The first W.I. baby, Pauline Shewan presented the Institute with a birthday book in 1951.

We had a competition for Christmas cake cooked in floor polish tin which resulted in 23 small Christmas cakes taken to Talbot Hospital.

The floral art section was introduced in 1952; members were reminded to make use of the library.

Fairview sent forward the following remit in 1952 for 'The prevention and control of hydatids disease and compulsory dosing of dogs'. Sherbourne, St. John's Institute, Hampshire wrote to us requesting to form a link and we did exchange letters for a time.

At the Coronation Procession, 1953, Fairview's float depicted the W.I. Badge, and we made paper roses for the arch when the Queen visited Timaru.

September 1954, our first flower show started in a small way and each year this function has continued to grow. Today the flower show covers narcissus, cut flowers, vegetables, decorative, hand-work, cookery and children's classes, all of which are well supported. Over the years we have had many keenly competed for trophies donated for the different sections of the flower show.

A suggestion was that a subscription of the 'Home and Country' be given to the president, carried 1955.

That year we celebrated our twenty-first birthday with a party in the afternoon followed by a social at night.

The Dale Tray, given by the daughters of the late Mrs H. B. Dale is the trophy for the runner-up to the person gaining most points in the year's competitions.

In 1956 we combined the meeting with a rose show.

Mrs J. Frost presented a picture of Miss Jerome Spencer for a prize in the annual competition.

For the Centennial Year, 1958, members were asked to grow marigolds for the floral float.

At the Christmas meeting cakes of soap were collected to be given to patients of Talbot Hospital. This practice was carried out for some years.

The Campbell Brooch, donated in 1961 by Mrs. T. Campbell was for the most points in the monthly competitions.

Festival of Spring, 1963. Fairview to decorate a shop window — and also in 1964.

We honoured Miss M. Butchers, our first bride for a number of years.

In 1964 we helped by decorating four tyres for the Queen Mother's visit. This year also saw the end of the library books.

In 1965 congratulations were conveyed to member whose daughter is now 'Miss South Canterbury' Miss R. Barclay. At our thirty-first birthday party our oldest member, Miss Mercer, who was 94, cut the first slice of cake.

In 1966 we supported the bays at the Timaru A. and P. Show and have continued to do so. We honoured Miss H. Mercer's ninety-fifth birthday. This year instead of soap we sent sweets to the Talbot Hospital. This practice has been carried on.

In 1967 an English visitor on her return home sent from her W.I. Lamaton Devon, a cookery book which was handed round among the members. Honoured bride-to-be Miss N. Butchers.

1968 and we are 34. The first slice of cake by a foundation member who is still very active in our W.I. Mrs. F. Shewan. We honoured a member on the occasion of her twenty-first birthday, Mrs. A. McAlister. From our English visitor, Mrs. E. Gould we received greetings with a tea-towel and a book, 'The Living Village' by Paul Jennings. This book was compiled for English W.I.'s for their jubilee. Our flower show convener Mrs. J. Wallace retired after having served us well for fifteen years.

Christmas 1969, we again took sweets to Talbot Hospital and whilst there a group of members sang carols; most rewarding.

For 1970 we have plans to visit an old lonely lady at the Grange.



We have yet another link, this time with Stelling Minnis W.I. of Kent, England. It is interesting to note that all our links have come about through members' relations.

We have supported many worthy causes both local and national in our 35 years of fellowship thus enriching our own lives in service to others.

Throughout the years we have watched vast numbers of demonstrations and listened to innumerable talks on widely diverse subjects, mixing entertainment with education, each one lifting us for a while out of the hum-drum of every-day living.

We have learnt how to prune roses, and how to patch pants, we've read plays and entertained the aged, been transported to Fiji and Scotland and Northland, in fact, to nearly every part of the globe by travel talks and films. We have had talks on nursing and international and foreign affairs, on music and art, on beauty care and cookery, gardening and dressmaking, and every facet of homemaking so dear to a woman's heart, whether she be young or old, grave or gay, the whole world over.

## Gapes Valley

IN FEBRUARY 1931, a meeting was arranged for the women of Gapes Valley and surrounding districts to discuss the forming of a branch of the C.W.I. It was unanimously agreed that a branch be formed. Mrs. Mabel Roberts, Beautiful Valley, a most capable and versatile person was elected first President. She had the support of an equally capable committee.

The whole country was suffering from severe financial depression and there was little money for anything but necessities. It was agreed to meet monthly in the Gapes Valley Hall. Many came to meetings in horse drawn vehicles.

We were fortunate that there was considerable musical and dramatic talent amongst our members. Competitions for cookery, handwork, sewing and flowers were well supported. Thrift articles made from flour and sugar bags helped eke out cash or lack of it.

A sales table where members sold goods to each other was a great help. A small percentage was charged and went to Institute Funds.

We had talks and demonstrations by visitors and our own members. There were concerts by local talent and sometimes visitors kindly assisted followed by a dance and quite bounteous suppers.

One very charming lady to visit us was Miss Jerome Spencer, who founded the first C.W.I. in New Zealand at Rissington in Hawkes Bay. She gave a very interesting talk on the Institute

movement and one suggestion that she made was 'Do not let your Institute become a collecting agency'.

Later in the thirties we had a visit from a C.W.I. organiser from England. She was Government sponsored. She gave demonstrations and talks on Institute matters.

In 1938 an oak tree was planted in the hall grounds to commemorate the Coronation of King George VI and is now a large flourishing tree and a thing of beauty. Our first president then retired; was invited to plant the tree. Mrs. Hibbs very kindly provided a plaque to mark the occasion. We had less members at this time than at the initial meetings but still had a good number.

When the war years came petrol rationing left us without means of travel for pleasure. The financial position had improved greatly by now and during the war the Institute sent parcels monthly containing cakes, tobacco, sweets etc. Many engaged in knitting or sewing to help the Red Cross. We helped in the farewelling of the local boys at socials in the hall and when those who returned came home we helped give them a welcome home.

We hold a Christmas Party in December and our birthday party in May. It gives us all who visit other Institutes great pleasure to see their achievements and it gives us greater incentive to improve our own efforts. We have talks from visitors on travel, arts and crafts, and other interesting subjects. Some of our members have beautiful gardens which we view from time to time. Floral arrangements and best blooms are outstanding at our monthly meetings. We still meet on second Thursdays of the month and though we are only a small Institute we have very friendly meetings and look forward to seeing each other.

We are all busy housewives and these meetings are the only chance there is of seeing each other to chat over a cup of tea. It is marvellous the support given to the monthly competitions.

Over the years we have had many presidents, secretaries, treasurers and committee members who have given of their very best to make our meeting so happy.

**BANNER:** Our handsome banner was designed by an artistic member and stitched by several skilled needlewomen. It depicts the Gapes Valley Hall and the road leading to the west along which came our Kakahu members. Gapes Valley and Kakahu is embroidered on the banner.

# Geraldine

ON JUNE 10, 1930, Miss Stops, the Dominion organiser of Women's Institutes, addressed a gathering of 24 women in the supper room of the Masonic Hall — an historic occasion indeed! At that time there were 116 Institutes in New Zealand. It was unanimously agreed to form a Geraldine Women's Institute, the first meeting to be held in the Masonic supper room on the afternoon of July 1. Mrs. L. E. Williams as convener. Thus our branch was born, and for 40 years has filled a very real need in the community. Women of all denominations could meet together in friendship and give mutual support and encouragement during the dreary depression years. This 'getting together' may even have prepared the ground for the ecumenical movement of our own time.

At the first meeting, 40 members elected Mrs. Barklie their President, Mrs. Hislop Vice-President, Mrs. Lorimer Secretary. The Committee was Mrs. G. Knibb, Mrs. Walpole, Mrs. Couling, Mrs. Logan and Mrs. Williamson. The annual subscription was 2/- and the first Tuesday afternoon in the month the time of the meeting.

After 40 years, Institute members still meet on the first Tuesday, but now in the evening, to meet the special needs of Geraldine's working women.

Mrs. L. E. Williams infected the whole district with enthusiasm, and after three months there were 77 members, and meetings were held in the Oddfellows Hall. In 1935, the meeting-place was changed to the Parish Hall and then to the R.S.A. social rooms, where meetings are still held.

In the early 1930's English country dancing was very popular. A grand get-together by all the Institutes of the Geraldine district in the Geraldine Domain, is still remembered by those who took part. Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Cook of Orari were the enthusiastic directors.

At an Arts and Crafts Exhibition in Timaru in 1934, Geraldine W.I. won the first prize, a tribute to the clever fingers of the members of those early years. Mrs. Wadsworth is remembered for her demonstrations of smocking. Mrs. Grayburn for smocking, toy-making and embroidery, Mrs. Firman for the egg-shell mosaics. During 1934, Mr Tucker, headmaster of the district high school asked six members to teach handicrafts to the high school girls.

In 1936, the beautifying of Seadown Road was undertaken as a South Canterbury project. Mrs. Hislop was the Geraldine representative on the committee. Geraldine W.I. donated a ribbonwood — which did not survive. It was replaced in 1947 at the cost of 3/6. As a further beautifying effort, flowering cherry trees were bought for 'Coronation Avenue' now Hislop Street,



in 1937 There was no birthday cake at their party that year — the money saved was used to buy the cherry trees.

An exchange library flourished at the meetings in the 30's. All members took a book to start it and it was very popular.

Some of the social occasions of those early years are noteworthy. Who could forget the Nigger Minstrels under the leadership of Mrs. Grayburn who appeared in a group cabaret in the town hall in 1936? Or the invasion of 70 United States Marines who recuperated in the district in 1942 and were given a Thanksgiving Dinner in the Orari Bridge Hall?

The war years 1939-45 proved the great community spirit of members. The Lady Galway Guild was sponsored by the Institute, and met every Monday. Many hundreds of garments were washed, mended or re-made. Mrs. Archie Davis always lit the fire and is remembered as 'The Maker of Heavenly Trousers'.

Mrs. Broad specialised in children's pyjamas and made literally hundreds. Many money-raising efforts were held for Red Cross funds and for soldier's parcels. A signature quilt made £32! For 2/- you could sign the quilt, this being later embroidered by members. It was finished with a bright red border, and sent to Colonel Tweedie — New Zealand representative, for use on a South Canterbury soldiers hospital bed. Hundreds of papier mache basins and kidney trays were made in Miss Turner's shop. It was messy but necessary. Mrs. Fred South always cheerful would arrive, her bicycle laden with parcels, with the announcement that she had ironed the coloureds and cleaned out the fowlhouse; She was an outstanding worker. A great esprit de corps developed among the women who made such a great contribution to the district's war effort.

Sales tables always did a roaring trade at meetings. Members were paid for what they brought, the Institute's commission being a penny in each shilling.

In the depression years it was often the only source of member's pin-money.

Later, under Mrs. Burmester, as 'negotiator' the scope of goods was enlarged. Goods were listed for sale on a blackboard; furniture, clothes (even a fur coat) and sales were negotiated privately, the Institute still collecting its commission!

Thrift was one of the guiding principles of the Institute. Members were shown how to 'make-do' and 'make-over' and great ingenuity was shown in the use of flour-bags and sugar-bags. Aprons of flour bags were commonplace, but once a summer dress was produced by a member — a most worthy effort. Sugar bags dyed were made into fringed floor-mats, and no one could forget the flower pots — decorated and varnished and made from papier mache.

Every penny counted — the balance sheet of a card party showed a profit of sixpence, this being passed over to the treasurer! At the early birthday party — members were asked to bring two plates and a log of wood — no electric heaters there.

A play reading circle flourished under the guidance of Mrs. Grayburn. Many members found to their surprise that their voices could be heard in public, and gave them confidence to air their views at Institute meetings. A drama club was the natural outcome.

A bridge club was begun by Mrs. McKinley and continued for several years.

A choir was formed very early in the Institutes history, and groups of members have delighted their friends and sister Institutes at Christmas and birthday parties. Mrs. Depree in the early years and Mrs. J. Bishop from 1956 have been stalwarts singing and training choirs for parties, friendly club meetings and eisteddfods.

Since the war, the community work of members has not been as spectacular as that of the Lady Galway Guild, but nevertheless, varied and worthwhile. Miss T. Rule organised the opening of Dr. Barnado boxes, for 20 years from 1946, and with Morrison Brothers, generously donating sweets, parties were held in the Domain. Health stamps have been sold by members from their inception, and Leper appeals always supported.

For the last ten years, a huge Christmas stocking has been filled by members as a gift to children at Templeton Hospital, and gifts of flowers, jam, and other articles given to the local hospitals. No account of the Geraldine C.W.I. would be complete without noting some of the personalities who left their mark on the Institute or in the minds of members.

Mrs. L. E. Williams was affectionately known as 'Aims and Objects' Williams. We could do with a dose of her genial philosophy today. Once when she was chairing a committee meeting because no-one would be president, she locked the door and said they would all stay until a president was found. *One was!* Miss May Cruikshanks was one of the most capable presidents. She had an abundance of good ideas and the ability to keep the peace.

Mrs. Ray Cliff (Molly Callanan) was the life of the party when she sat down at the piano, and soon had feet a-tapping. She was an accomplished and generous pianist. Mrs. Grayburn gave long service as secretary and committee member. Her versatile pen has livened meetings and parties.

Mrs. Burmester still gets things done. She was a foundation member, and has now been made an honorary member. She tells many tales of early Institute meetings.



Mrs. Firman shone in organising entertainment or competitions. With the help of Mrs. Angus Morrison many impromptu skits were produced — (can the council meeting ever be forgotten?)

Mrs. Mitchelmore always won the premier bloom competition, sometimes to the chagrin of others. No-one could beat her at knitting either.

Mrs. Rita Mackay was another energetic member full of drive.

Miss Thelma Rule gave generously of her time and talents to all the neighbouring Institutes as well as this one.

And so the years passed. Peace came after six years of war, but rather a restless peace. Presidents of the calibre of Mrs. C. Davies, her sister Mrs. G. Wright, Mrs. Clarke and Mrs. Holmes — all capable and gracious, have steered the Institute on a steady course. But the C.W.I. has rather changed its role. No longer is it the only undenominational meeting in the township. It competes now with kindergarten, plunket mother's clubs, and church groups for its younger members. It is still a joy to have a cross-section of the community young and old, of all denominations, sharing our monthly evenings, and each contributing her own special talent.

## Gleniti

ON WEDNESDAY, MAY 17, 1933, 34 ladies of the Gleniti district gathered at the school to discuss the advisability of forming a Womens' Institute in the district.

Mrs. W. Curr, convener of the meeting, welcomed those present and introduced Mrs. L. E. Williams, Federation President and Mrs. E. A. Cockroft of Ashburton. Mrs. L. E. Williams went fully into the working and objects of the Institute and after a full discussion it was unanimously agreed to form the Institute and to be known as 'Gleniti Womens' Institute'.

Officers elected were:—

*President:* Mrs. E. Winnington

*Secretary:* Mrs. W. Curr

*Assistant Secretary:* Mrs. W. Finlay

*Treasurer:* Mrs. A. Jackson

*Committee:* Mesdames W. Brown, C. Ballantyne, H. Loomes, D. Ramsay, C. Morse, A. Armit, E. Rawson, J. Keenan, G. Ramsay.

First meetings were held in the stone building which was then known as Gleniti Library but we soon out-grew this meeting

place and afterwards held meetings in the school with co-operation of the head teacher.

Our membership used to be the largest in the Federation but now alas as years go by our membership has decreased but we still remain a happy group.

#### HISTORY OF OUR BANNER:

South Canterbury Federation with Mrs. L. E. Williams as President, made the need for a banner in every C.W.I. a must. So they decided to make a competition at a meeting held in Geraldine. Prior to this meeting, Gleniti C.W.I. made a design for a banner competition at their monthly meeting, Mrs. W. Curr offering a prize for the best design. Numerous designs were put forward and Gleniti's Banner as it is today was the one chosen to be sent to South Canterbury Federation Meeting. We were very thrilled to be placed first and to be told it was so representative and well balanced. The maple leaf for Canada, where the first Institute was founded by Mrs. Hoodless. The rose for England where the movement was founded by Mrs. Alfred Watt and the fern for New Zealand, where the movement was founded by Miss Jerome Spencer. Motto: 'For Home and Country', and badge was worked in gold and red on dark green background, lined with gold, deep gold fringe and tassels and plaited cord.

Mrs. Brown did embroidery, Mrs. F. Robinson fringe and Tassels and two Gleniti lads also assisted. Mrs. W. Finlay made up the banner. It has been in use for 37 years; only the fringe had to be repaired. Mrs. W. Finlay also designed the banner.

During the war parcels were sent regularly to members' sons overseas.

Tins of fat and cakes to our link in England.

Knitting for the soldiers through Patriotic Fund.

Some members served in Home Defence, Red Cross and as Wardens.

We entertained boys from the Burnham Camp and also ships personel at Sailors Rest.

#### ACTIVITIES:

Drama and choir groups. For several years organised flower shows. Members collected in the district on Poppy Day. Also assisted in the sale of goods from the disabled soldiers league.

Members also assisted in collection for the Foundation of the Blind.

Upheld all requests from Federation when occasions arose.

In the early years, 1944, Mrs. W. Hoare won the Group Travel competition for the member having the largest family in the Federation.

#### LINKS:

In 1936 we had a link in Wesport, Fort Williams, Canada, but according to records didn't last long. Since 1938 our link with Crowle W.I., England, and to date we correspond regularly and exchange W.I. magazines. One year they sent us a tape recording of their meeting, members sent greetings. Thus in turn, we took a recording of our birthday party, which turned out very successful. For 26 years Mrs. J. F. McKay has been our correspondent.

Badges were presented as follows:—Gold Honours, Mrs. W. Finlay; Good Service, Mrs. W. Finlay (the first to be given by Waimate Federation); Good Service, Mrs. J. F. McKay; Long Service, Mrs. D. Ramsay; Good Service, Mrs. R. Breeze; Good Service, Mrs. D. Black.

We would like to highlight the services of two of our members who have given many years of service to our movement.

Mrs. W. H. Finlay, foundation member, nine years as president, 11 years as secretary, two years as ordinary committee member, was treasurer of South Canterbury Federation, Dominion Councillor, voluntary organiser, group convener, president of Waimate Federation and very interested and active through the years and through health reasons had to give up these responsibilities. She did earn her Gold Honours Badge.

Mrs. J. F. McKay, a member since 1938, president 11 years, six years as secretary, two years as vice-president, three years member on committee. Federation President and Secretary of South Canterbury Federation, eight years in all, Secretary for Waimate Federation also their Dominion Councillor, voluntary organiser, and at the present moment is again president.

We are also pleased to report that we have still five foundation members all active with the exception of one Mesdames W. Finlay, R. Rushton, R. Breeze and E. Rawson.

## Kimbell

AN INAUGURAL MEETING of the Women's Institute was held in the Kimbell School on August 19, 1931. Mrs. West (Fairlie) presided and Mrs. L. E. Williams, voluntary organiser (Geraldine) spoke of aims and objects of the movement and the work of various officers. A motion to form an Institute in Kimbell was carried unanimously.

The following committee were then elected:

*President:* Mrs. H. Brien

*Vice-President:* Mrs. P. Keenan, Snr

*Secretary-Treasurer:* Mrs. E. Erikson



Members were: Committee and Mesdames E. Allan, C. B. Waters, W. Connolly, G. Fraser, C. Harvey, E. J. MacKintosh, W. Shaw, H. A. Munro, E. Mason, A. Capill, T. Scott, Misses Sheila Keefee and May Annan and Ayson. Mrs. Chisnall (Geraldine) gave an interesting address on federation. The day of the meeting was decided — first Friday in the month at 2.45 p.m. A vote of thanks was passed to Mesdames West, Williams and Chisnall and the meeting terminated with the singing of the National Anthem.

The first monthly meeting was held on September 4, there being 18 members present. Mrs. West demonstrated the making of sheepskin moccasins. Mesdames G. Fraser and E. Erikson were appointed delegates to the Federation meeting in Geraldine in October. Mrs. H. N. Hope gave a talk and an exhibition of her paintings. Good attendances were recorded for the following year and interesting talks, demonstrations and competitions were held. At the July meeting Pink Japonica was chosen as the flower emblem and colours black and orange. The first birthday was celebrated with a dance in the school on August 24, 1932, (music being supplied by Messrs Rob Braddick and Les Stevenson, Mr. Frank Geaney was M.C.). Mrs. Erikson left the district and Miss Ayson took her place and Mr. Baas (schoolteacher) was the first auditor. In 1934 Miss Margaret Frances Shaw as first Institute Baby was presented with a silver spoon. Kimbell C.W.I. choir was first in a choir competition, at a federation meeting. In 1935 Mrs. E. Goulter submitted a design for a banner, and the younger members agreed to work it in stranded cottons, (depicting the school and surrounding scene with a spray of Japonica on each side, an appropriate verse below scene and above the Institute badge). In 1952 the secretary's home was destroyed by fire and most records were lost prior to Kimbell C.W.I.'s twenty-first birthday. A Good Service Badge was presented to Mrs. G. Fraser who was president for 14 years though not concurrently, Mrs. P. Keenan Snr a past president (and also an excellent worker for C.W.I.) paid tribute to Mrs. Frasers work as president and also for her talented ideas she shared during her 21 years as a member. In 1953 Mr. and Mrs. H. Sadler presented a Silver Rose Bowl for most points during the year for flowers. In 1958 Mrs. J. Calder was president and the meetings were changed to evenings and membership rose considerably, however later many members left the district and membership fell to eight active members. Mrs. Teale, President South Canterbury Federation and Mrs. Challis (honorary Secretary) visited Kimbell and gave a most encouraging talk and members decided to carry on. Mrs. M. Clarkson was presented with a Good Service Badge in 1965.

1970: There are now 12 financial members and under the leadership of Mrs. W. Taylor (second term) members hope to



continue their friendly instructive meetings, delegates have attended almost every federation and group meetings, five delegates attended Conference over the last ten years and one hopes to attend the Golden Jubilee (1970). Two members, Mrs. U. Miller and Miss Amy McLaren (sisters) were honoured to be asked to spin the raw wool and knit a fullover for Prince Philip when the Royal Family visited Timaru on March 17, 1970: Over the years all deserving appeals have been donated to: Mesdames C. B. Waters and E. Allan (foundation members) and Mrs. J. F. Dore (W.I. baby) have attended the 'birthday party' almost regularly. (We regret that Mrs. E. Allan passed away ere this was written (April 1970).

*Presidents over the years:*

1931-33	Mrs. H. Brien	1946-53	Mrs. G. Fraser
1933-35	Mrs. P. Keenan Snr	1953-56	Mrs. J. Mills
1935	Mrs. N. Fee (part of)	1956-58	Mrs. J. Gilchrist
1935-36	Mrs. J. Ireland	1958-60	Mrs. J. Calder
1936-45	Mrs. C. B. Waters, 2 yrs	1960-61	Mrs. N. S. Sadler (part of 1961)
	Mrs. G. Fraser, 7 yrs	1961-64	Mrs. M. Clarkson
1945-46	Mrs. D. J. Keenan (also has been sec. and treas. for 14 years; not concurrently).	1964-66	Mrs. P. Keenan Jnr
		1966-67	Mrs. U. Clarkson
		1967-69	Mrs. P. P. O'Connor
		1969-70	Mrs. W. Taylor

*Working on Banner:*

Kindness of those in need  
In thought and word and deed  
Meeting that all may share  
Best knowledge in our care  
Each of us is trying to grow  
Loyal to the good we know  
Loneliness is our foe.

Design on lemon materials and cords around banner gold and black wool, twisted to form cord.

## Lake Pukaki

THE LAKE PUKAKI C.W.I. was first formed in 1950, when a meeting on March 22 was held in the Pukaki Hall. The president of the South Canterbury Federation, Mrs. F. M. Martin, was present in her capacity as voluntary organiser. The first President of our Institute was Mrs. S. Keetch, and in April 1950 it was officially affiliated to the Timaru Depot. The Institute functioned for four years and then went into recess owing to

the general departure of most of the members due to the completion of the Pukaki Dam.

On Saturday, May 10, 1958 a meeting was held in the Pukaki School room with a view to reforming the Institute after four years. The Federation Officers present were Mesdames J. McKay (President), A. Challis (Secretary) and Douglas, in the capacity of voluntary organisers. The new president was Mrs. Clarkson. Since then the Institute has carried on though at times we have had very few members, but always there has been a stalwart core of members who have held the movement together and who have missed very few meetings.

Today we have 23 financial members and a very young membership. Ours is a shifting population so we are always welcoming new members and bidding farewell to old friends. As we are such a distance from Timaru, involving a journey of approximately two hours, we seldom have the opportunity to have guest speakers and demonstrators though we do make use of the slides available from Otago University.

We cater twice a year for the field days of Mackenzie Branch of Federated Farmers and this helps to boost our funds. We donate to the Fairlie Branch of St. John's Ambulance and Meals on Wheels.

With the new Twizel village so close to hand we do not know what the future holds in store for us and our Institute, but we will always have an Institute and we hope it brings as much pleasure and enjoyment to our future members as it has to our past and present ones.

## Lake Tekapo

LAKE TEKAPO WOMEN'S INSTITUTE was formed on Monday September 29, 1941, President was Mrs. C. K. Smith, Vice-President and Treasurer was Mrs. S. H. Brown, Secretary Mrs. J. R. Wells. The convener Mrs. C. K. Smith presided over an attendance of 18 ladies including six from Fairlie. A very warm welcome was extended to the visitors who were officials of the South Canterbury Federation and had travelled up especially for this meeting. Mrs. A. B. MacKenzie then spoke giving a brief history of the women's institute and telling of the work in general. It was decided to form a women's institute to be known as the Lake Tekapo Women's Institute.

For two years the Institute flourished with competitions planned, prizes organised and classes in sewing and cooking arranged.

Because of the Second World War the Lake Tekapo Women's Institute went into recess. The next meeting to reform the

Institute was held on March 9, 1946. Mrs. C. K. Smith presided over an attendance of 26 ladies. A welcome was extended to Mrs. A. H. Gillingham, voluntary organiser for South Canterbury who then spoke giving a brief history of the Women's Institute and work being done. After it had been decided to reform the Institute in the area Mrs. Gillingham called for nominations for president and Mrs. D. H. Ritchie was duly elected. The date and time of this meeting was decided: The third Saturday of the month at 2.30 p.m. There was a fine display of hand-craft of all descriptions and Mrs. Murray gave a vocal solo.

During the first year circles were formed in drama, choir and hand-craft and at one meeting the drama circle entertained with a one-act play 'Interlude to Diplomacy'.

Demonstrations were given in skin-curing, smocking, making a mat from binder twin and a rag mat.

A children's fancy dress and mock court proved highly successful and the £40 raised was used to send food parcels to Britain.

Bradley Donald Murray the Institute baby was present at a meeting during the year and was presented with a silver serviette ring.

In 1947 the Institute raised £80 for the starting of a kindergarten in the township and in that year too they began to sponsor a child; Gwendoline Mills. The following year members agreed to sponsor a displaced child from Holland. Fund raising was by the holding of an annual ball and to raise money for the building project for Dominion Headquarters a fancy dress was held.

The drama group was very active. In 1949 they entered two plays in the South Canterbury Federation's Drama competitions and one play won the drama cup. They entertained at meetings as also did the choral group by singing two-part songs.

In 1950 a competition was held to design the Institute Banner. This was won by Mrs. Atwell.

With the closing of the hydro camp early in the 50's membership dropped slightly but the drive and enthusiasm remained throughout the years. At various times peggy squares were knitted for different causes and members played their part in helping the school children to form a Junior Red Cross.

In answer to a request from the Mackenzie County Council members held working bees to make curtains for the camping ground houses.

When Institute in the Mackenzie Group planted trees in Fairlie to mark the centennial Lake Tekapo planted a ribbonwood that had been grown by Mrs. J. Scott.

Help for the community over the years has often been in the form of catering and some of these events have been the coronation ball, Federated Farmers' Field Day, opening of the



Crippled Children's Society Hostel, scout jamboree touring party, electricity department visitors and the opening of the Mt. John Observatory. When the new hall was built in Tekapo the Institute gift took the form of a piano stool.

In 1963 the Crippled Children's Society hostel was opened in Tekapo and members were asked to help with the care of the home: A task they continue to do.

The Lake Tekapo C.W.I. continues to play its full part in the community and as a member of the South Canterbury Federation.

Good Service Badges have been awarded to: Mrs K. Murray, Mrs. F. Surridge and Mrs. W. Harkness.

## Milford

ON JUNE 1, 1932, a representative meeting of the ladies of the Milford district was held in the Milford Library.

Mrs. G. MacDonald, President of Orari C.W.I. and Vice-President of the South Canterbury Federation was in the chair.

Also present from Orari were Mrs. Hughes and Mrs. Cook and from Temuka C.W.I. their President Miss M. Ferguson, Mrs. D. Taylor and Miss G. Brown. After Mrs. MacDonald had explained the aims and objects of Institutes it was decided that an Institute would be formed in Milford. The following committee was elected:

*President:* Mrs. Andrew Guild

*Vice-president:* Mrs. Angus Brown

*Secretary:* Miss A. Maze

*Treasurer:* Miss E. Macaulay

Mrs. L. Prattley, Mrs. W. Seward, Mrs. D. Brown, Mrs. G. Parke, Mrs. E. Dickson, Miss L. Cain, Miss M. McCully.

Mrs. MacDonald then instructed the newly elected committee on the running of meetings. It was decided to meet on the third Wednesday of each month but in later years it was changed to first Thursday at 2 p.m.

A vote of thanks was passed to the visitors for their help in coming to form a new Institute and for bringing along arts and crafts for display. A committee meeting was held a week later to draw up a programme for six months and to apply to the hall committee for the use of the back room for future meetings.

It was decided to have a suggestion box at all meetings for ideas for future programmes. The first meeting of the Institute was held on June 13 in the Milford Hall when 22 members were present. The first year there were 36 members and through the





MISS E. L. J. DAVIES



MRS. E. L. McLEOD



years the numbers of members has been between 25 and 30. At the August meeting of that first year a demonstration of spinning and carding wool and knitting of same was given by Mrs. Johnston. Now 38 years later we are having demonstrations of this art again. During those early years numerous concerts were run and children's fancy dress parties to raise funds. The Depot in Timaru was well supported and donations were sent to Flock House and other appeals of that time.

Among the many demonstrations and speakers mentioned were Mrs L. E. Williams and Miss Davies who did so much for the Institutes in the early days.

An overseas link was first formed in 1933 with an Institute in Essex and today we have a link in Hoole, Lancashire.

During the years Milford has had members on the executive and a former member Mrs. C. Teale was President of South Canterbury Executive at the time of her death. Mrs. W. Fleming and Mrs. W. Coker were also executive members.

The Milford C.W.I. has been a great asset to the district and has always been willing to help with any worthy cause.

## Mount Nething

ON FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 18, 1931, in the Mt. Nething Hall, Mrs. L. Williams of Geraldine, gave a most interesting address on the aims and objects of a Women's Institute to an audience of 20. Included in the address were hints and ideas on how to run a Women's Institute and at the close of Mrs. Williams' address it was unanimously decided to form an Institute to be called 'Mt. Nething'. A committee was formed with Mrs. R. Irving, President; and Miss D. Austin, Secretary and a programme made for the following month. At the October meeting there was an attendance of 19. During the past 10 years the average attendance has been 17, and membership averaged 30.

There was no lack of enthusiasm by members and they played a vital part in providing entertainment for the district residents. Regular concerts, dances and card evenings were held, and lively birthday parties enjoyed. At one such function husbands were invited and had to produce a thrift article made by themselves or else pay a fine. One unusual motion put to a meeting was 'that anyone coming to meetings in winter without woollen stockings be fined 1/-' but this motion (which was made to promote woollen garments) was lost.

In 1933, a very regular and keen member, Miss C. Irving, made history by ascending Mt. Cook. A keen alpinist, Miss Irving in 1939 also climbed Mt. Tasman, being the second woman to do so. Four days later she was the first woman to climb Mt.

La Perouse from the east, and two days later she reached her third high summit, the first peak of Mt. Cook. Miss Irving was a conscientious member and was in charge of the sales table and sale of Health stamps for many years. Each month she gave a garden thought or a thought for the month, both instructive and humorous.

Children of the district were not forgotten and each year were given a treat with either a picnic on Caroline Bay (going by train) or a party in the hall with Father Christmas distributing gifts. During the period of petrol rationing picnics were held in the Domain.

All Dominion, South Canterbury Federation and Group meetings were attended by delegates and full reports given. Birthday parties of sister Institutes and local W.D.F.F. parties were also attended.

In an endeavour to beautify the grounds surrounding the hall, trees were planted to commemorate the Silver Jubilee of King George V and the Coronation of King George VI, and also several on Arbor Days.

A golden thread reading has been read each month, and has covered many subjects. This is still well supported.

Competitions throughout the years have remained on the same lines there being classes in cooking, sewing, floral art and blooms. Unusual competitions have been the podding of 24 pods of peas, and the peeling of an apple blindfolded, which caused much amusement.

In carrying out the aims of the Institute, Mt. Nessing gave good support to the Central Relief Depot during depression years. Regular support was also given to the C.W.I. Depot in Timaru and Mrs. R. Irving was on the Depot committee for many years. Through this Depot members were able to sell produce and handcrafts.

The Second World War showed many changes in the pattern of the Institute. Meetings started with the N.Z. National Anthem followed by silent prayer, or the reading of the Prayer for Peace. Links were established with four Institutes in Britain — Moretonhampstead, Essex, Brynsciencyn and Pentraeth, Isle of Anglesey, North Wales, and Mountnessing, Devonshire. Correspondence was exchanged and food parcels sent until 1954. The members did a magnificent job in providing and packing comforts for the district servicemen, and knitted socks, gloves, mittens, balaclavas, scarves, skull caps and waistcoats featured in the competitions. Numbers of these articles were also sent to the Patriotic Committee, the Army, Navy and Air Force Club, Timaru, and the Red Cross. At the August meeting, 1943, handed in were 13 pairs mittens, ten scarves, five balaclavas, one pair socks, four sleeveless pullovers and one skullcap — a really magnificent effort on the part of the members. Food



parcels were also sent regularly and at one time 14 servicemen were receiving parcels. Fruit cakes were sent at Christmas and during the year, and this meant a sacrifice with the rationing of sugar and scarcity of dried fruits. These parcels were gratefully received as was evident by the many 'thank you' letters received. The Lady Galway Guild for children's clothing was supported as were scrap metal drives for C.W.I. Metal Munitions Drive, rabbit skins, odd needles and waste paper. The Timaru Military Hospital received knitted articles, as did the Red Cross, and a quilt autographed at 1/- an autograph, was sent to number 1 hospital ship. An interesting feature was that on its last trip this quilt was used on the bed of a serviceman from the Mt. Nessing-Albury district. The quilt raised £13 for Patriotic funds. During pre-war years and continuing through the '40's, leather goods were sold on behalf of the Soldiers Re-establishment League. The Sailors Rest on the Timaru waterfront received many tins of home baked biscuits till the Rest closed in 1966.

Hostilities ended but there was still a desperate shortage of food in Britain, and in 1946 members became very busy packing and mailing tins of fat, and food to the four links. Through contacts with the Lambeth Mission, the Star and Garter Hospital and the East End Mission of London, food parcels were sent to the needy and aged people throughout these areas, until 1954. Very appreciative letters were received from the recipients which made the members feel it was well worth the effort.

A Greek child was sponsored in December, 1949, and in 1953, till 1966 an Austrian child was well cared for with clothing, peggy square rug, halibut oil pills and food. Regular correspondence was exchanged with Sabine Klemish and her mother, who was most grateful for the Institute's support. Since 1966 a donation has been given each year towards the sponsorship of the S.C. Federation child.

On the cultural side of the Institute's activities, tutors were engaged to hold classes in drama, sewing, millinery, basketry and pottery and members benefited greatly from these. At meetings, travel talks accompanied by slides, have proved the most popular forms of entertainment. A home science tutor gave talks on various subjects connected with the home, and also talks by representatives of the Adult Education and Health Departments were well received. Demonstrations were, and still are, a favourite subject and these covered floral art, gardening, cooking, sewing and the making of Christmas gifts and novelties.

The Leper Man has received donations for many years, and donations and gifts were given to the Stratheona Girls Training Hostel up till the time it closed. Yearly support is still given to Dominion Headquarters, S.C. Federation, Pennies for

Friendship; with gifts of eggs for the Beverley Veterans Home, rags for Crippled Children, gifts to Red Cross and local hospitals, and jams for meals on wheels. Members also canvass the district for Foundation for the Blind and Intellectually Handicapped Children collections.

Mt. Nessing has always been fortunate in having a pianist amongst its members and some very talented singers. Choirs have met with success and the Institute has competed with much success at the eisteddfods in all sections.

Each year the treasurer has produced a very satisfactory balance sheet and from 1939 (apart from the middle war years) the Institute has catered each year for the local Collie Club dog trials which is the main fund raising effort. Special sales table efforts are well patronised.

As well as taking office in their own Institute the following members have also served on the Federation Executive:— Mesdames R. Irving, Miss D. Austin, W. Simpson, C. Brown and B. Glass. The Institute is very proud to have Mrs. B. Glass as South Canterbury Federation President at the present time. In recognition of outstanding services to the Institute the Long Service Badge was awarded to Mrs. R. Irving and the Good Service Badge to Mesdames W. Simpson, A. Irving, Miss C. Irving, I. Macaulay, H. Knubley, M. Fraser and B. Glass. Outstanding administration work was also given by Miss D. Austin the first secretary and a president for many years, Mrs. J. Glass and Mrs. W. Simpson. Both Mrs. J. Glass and Mrs. W. Higgs were particularly successful in the monthly competitions which have had full support of the members. The following have worn the badge of the voluntary organiser — Mesdames W. Simpson, C. Brown and B. Glass.

## Timaru Centre

ON WEDNESDAY, JULY 25, 1945, a meeting was held at the home of Mrs. Maitland, 17 Evans Street, Timaru, for the purpose of forming a Women's Institute Centre. Fourteen ex-members of Women's Institutes were present. Miss E. J. L. Davies, President of South Canterbury Federation presided, explained aims and objects of an Institute Centre and stated that permission had been granted by Dominion Federation for the forming of a Centre.

*President:* Miss D. Austin

*Secretary:* Mrs. R. Stewart

*Treasurer:* Mrs. J. Maitland

*Committee:*

Mesdames Meredith, Moore, Pemberton, Pickering and Miss Mitchell.

Other foundation members were Mesdames T. Burborough, E. Fowler, Triggs, Seivwright, Winmill, Munro, Hansen and J. R. Little.

Meetings were held in Mrs. Maitland's home until February 1946 and from then on the Community Centre. Brenda Pickering was the first Institute baby. David Pickering blew out the first birthday candle which had been lit by Mrs. Pemberton.

*Presidents:*

1945-1950	Miss Austin	1962-1965	Mrs. Callow
1950-1953	Mrs. Hansen	1965-1967	Mrs. Craig
1953-1957	Mrs. Challis	1967-1969	Mrs. Kennedy
1957-1959	Mrs. Teale	1969-	Mrs. Kelly
1959-1962	Mrs. Mauger		(still in office)

Members throughout the years have contributed in many way to add interest to the meetings and uphold the principals of Institute. Competitions have been well supported, delegates have attended sister Institute meetings and Federation meetings, also Conferences, song groups and other artists have entered eisteddfods and entertained at various hospitals and institutions for sick and elderly people. 'Street days' have been well supported.

Financial membership: 80.

## Orari

THE FORMATION of the Women's Institute as it was known then was on March 28, 1929. A meeting was held in the Church of England Sunday School to consider the formation of a Women's Institute in Orari. Mrs. G. A. M. MacDonald presided. Mrs. Williams, Woodbury, and Miss Jerome Spencer, Hawkes Bay, spoke on the aims and objects of the movement and so it was decided to form one; the following officers were appointed:

*President:* Mrs. G. A. M. MacDonald

*Secretary-Treasurer:* Mrs. W. E. Cook

*Committee:*

Mesdames J. B. Roberts, R. Taylor, W. Hughes, C. Unwin and Miss Grimsey.

The first meeting of the newly formed Institute was held on Thursday, April 18, 1929, all local ladies being invited to attend.

A committee meeting was held after this meeting when Mesdames S. Unwin, W. Norman and Miss R. Killoh were added to the committee members. Membership rose rapidly in the first year to 65 financial members and in February 1930 the meetings were moved to the Coronation Hall to accommodate the numbers.



Orari C.W.I. was first linked with Trumpington W.I., Cambridge, England, in July 1929 and with Beckford W.I., England in May 1945. First committee meeting was held on April 9 at 7.15 p.m. at the Church of England Sunday School Hall.

The first monthly meeting was held on April 18, 1929 with an attendance of 32. 30 of whom expressed their wish to join the Institute. The minutes of the formation meeting were read and confirmed. The annual fee was fixed at 2/- per member per annum. Meetings to be held on third Thursdays of the month. The age at which members were eligible for membership was fixed at 16 years. It was proposed that the singing of folk and Institute songs be included in the programme. The Institute songs were first sung at a meeting on April 16, 1931.

A curiosity table proved very popular when they had to bring an article from some and say a few words about it. A gift table was also set aside for proceeds towards a cup and saucer fund. These were imported from England in September 1931, six dozen which are still in good use today. A cupboard was built in the Coronation Hall to accommodate the cups and saucers etc, cost £3 and the cups and saucers cost £4/10/-. Sales table at the general meetings with articles to be sold with a penny in the shilling for W.I. funds — began in June 1929. Orari W.I. banner with its distinctive colours of orange and blue was successful in gaining first place in the banner competition organised by the South Canterbury Federation in 1936.

The design is our flower emblem — the orange marigold, our motto — 'each for all and all for each'. The white fish represents the meaning of Orari. The Maori meaning of Orari being 'place of white fish'. The banner has a background of blue satin and orange tassel and braid. It was designed and worked by Mrs. H. A. Brenton.

Orari choir first won the Hodgkin Cup presented by Mrs. J. Hodgkin for winner of South Canterbury Federation of Women's Institutes in 1934 and then again in June 1937. The winning choir in 1937 comprised Mesdames G. A. M. MacDonald, H. Killoh, C. Gerard, R. F. Payne, J. Reid, W. H. Shutt, and H. A. Brenton. Misses P. Brenton, J. Austin and H. Unwin. The first choir winners included Miss D. Worner.

In the early years a play reading group was formed and folk dancing was enjoyed by the younger members. A library was formed by the Institute and members brought a book each to start this library. Afterwards it was made a public library. In September 1949 the Women's Institute sponsored a Greek child Martha Daskalaki. £10 a year provided Martha with extra comforts and medicine. Extra parcels of food and clothing were also sent.

Fifty food parcels and tins of fat were sent to W.I. links in

England during the war and up to 1950. Postage amounted to £11/14/4. To commemorate the Coronation of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth in May 1937 the Orari C.W.I. planted a Golden Kowhai Tree in the plot at the Post Office

In 1933 Miss Stops an English voluntary organiser visited Orari demonstrating and forming many Institutes in N.Z.

In 1952 Mrs. V. Pemberton, President of the Trumpington W.I., England, who was on a world tour visited Orari C.W.I. and so strengthened the tie between the link in England. In 1965 we had a visit from Mrs. Wolfenden, Secretary of Trumpington who was also on a world tour.

Orari came second in the competition for a design for a federation banner. Pleasant Point won this competition but the chain around the centre piece was taken from the Orari banner. This was designed by Mrs. L. Pierce.

There have been many presidents in the 40 years of office. Mrs. G. A. M. MacDonald was our first who served for 14 years. Then Mrs. W. Watson did a good job in around the 1947-55, while Mrs. A. J. Earl has served her 10 years or more as a president. These are the most outstanding.

The honours list is as follows:

Gold Honours Badge	1940	Mrs. G. A. M. MacDonald
Good Service Badge	1949	Mrs. S. Unwin
	1949	Mrs. H. A. Brenton
	1952	Mrs. R. Bennett
	1953	Mrs. W. Watson
	1964	Mrs. R. Brenton
	1967	Mrs. A. J. Earl
	1969	Mrs. C. Patrick
	1970	Mrs. G. Marshall
Long Service Badge	1955	Mrs. J. A. Henderson

## Otipua

IT WAS ON THE AFTERNOON OF MARCH 37, 1929, at 3 o'clock that Miss Jerome Spencer of Hawkes Bay addressed a meeting of women of the Otipua district on the aims and objects of the Women's Institute movement. It was from that meeting held in the Otipua Hall that the following committee was elected.

*President:* Mrs. H. A. Scott

*Honorary Secretary and Treasurer:* Miss D. Newbegin

*Committee:* Mesdames W. H. Arden, B. E. Evans and Misses S. Withell, A. Black, R. Hill and M. Smith.

At a later meeting Mrs. H. Hill was elected Vice-President and Mrs. A. Godwin added to the Committee.

The following are listed in the first minute book under the date of April 10, 1929 as members of the Otupua C.W.I.

Mesdames: Beatrice Scott, Fannie Smith, Elizabeth Arden, Annie Jackson, Vera Caldwell, Constance Newbegin, Maud Hill, Agnes Tait, Maude Rapsey, Louie Bennetts, Margaret White, Janet Godwin, Amy Fox, Janet Evans, Sara Jackson, Annie Purvis, Laurie Stowell, F. Richards, Lena Purvis, Margaret McTague, M. Priest, H. Lunham, G. Simmons, H. Cross and W. Black.

Misses: Marion Evans, Marjory Smith, Dorothy Withell, Eveline Richards, Ella Jackson, Elsie Jackson, Ada Black, Reita Hall, Reta Tate, Doris Newbegin, Peggy Bennetts, Chrissie Linton, Doris Stowell, Trixie Tate, Winnie Cross, Irene Watson and Cecil Talbot.

Two months later Mrs. Scott who was leaving the district resigned from President and Miss D. Withell was elected to fill the position.

Hostesses in those days usually numbered five or six for one meeting, instead of members taking a plate as we do now. One's turn did not come more than once in a year. Needless to say it meant baking day beforehand — but what a spread. And you can imagine what that entailed during the depression years? Yet our foundation and early members gave generously and co-operated wholeheartedly despite these trying times. And that surely must have been an excellent foundation for our Women's Institute as it is today. We have had our 'Home and Country' agents, our own library, drama club, choir, and folk dancing teams and a willing band of workers made our Institute banner. We have our own visitors book, cookery book and birthday book.

We have had the lighter side of entertainment with our birthday parties, demonstrations, lectures, musical entertainment and even a mannequin parade. Those birthday parties—as we look back we can surely say how good they were.

We have travelled too, on Group Travel Tours, one day trips and under the leadership of Miss O'Donoghue started our own W.I. week-end trip each year, also mystery trips which seem very popular.

The C.W.I. motto is 'If you know a good thing pass it on'. From that motto we have gained endless knowledge of home-craft, thrift, articles, gardening, competitions and floral work.

Our members were even keen enough to enter a float in the procession in Timaru to celebrate the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II and helped with the floral arch for the Queen's visit in 1954. They also entered a float in the Centenary Procession.



The war years showed our members were steadfast, though the members dwindled considerably at the meetings because of petrol shortage and all the burdens that war years bring. But parcels were packed for soldiers, fat, food and soap were sent to Britain and baskets were provided for farewell evenings to soldiers. The Red Cross which was working in conjunction with the W.I. was given a certificate of merit for work done during the war years.

We have our link in England — Sherbourne W.I. and we have known what it means for our W.I. members, who have been lucky enough to travel 'home' to have received the hospitality of that same W.I. We have received from our link in England a very good etching of 'Sherbourne Abbey', a beautifully worked hostess apron, and a handworked cloth for our table.

So by visiting each other at our birthday parties, joining in our group and Federation meetings and corresponding with our links, we are forging ties which we hope will strengthen as the years go by.

The following foundation members are still members of our Institute in April 1970: Mesdames E. Arden, H. Lunham, V. Caldwell, E. Davison and Miss E. Richards.

We will celebrate our forty-first birthday in May, 1970.

Our membership stands at 33.

Mrs. J. Fordyce and Mrs. A. G. Hill have served on the South Canterbury Federation Executive.

The following have received Long Service Badges: Mrs. W. J. Black, Mrs. W. H. Arden, Mrs. A. Godwin, Mrs. R. Campbell, Mrs. H. Lunham, Mrs. H. Caldwell.

Good Services Badges: Miss N. O'Donoghue, Mrs. S. Davison, Mrs. N. Jackson, Mrs. A. J. Davey, Mrs. J. Fordyce, Mrs. P. Campbell, Mrs. C. E. Rapsey, Mrs. R. A. Jackson, Mrs. F. Lunham, Mrs. C. Jackson, Mrs. I. J. Caird, Mrs. E. Jackson, Mrs. W. E. O'Connell, Mrs. W. E. Talbot.

## Pareora

THE FIRST MEETING was held in the hall on April 1, 1931. Miss Withell of Otupua took the chair and the Institute was formed.

The meeting on April 14 was presided over by Mrs. Anna Munro. Miss Stops attended and explained the work of the Institute.

The membership started with 15 and by the end of the year there were 40 members.

In the early years a folk dancing group was formed and teams entered in competitions at Temuka, Geraldine and Waimate.

In 1933 the Anzac Service was started by the Institute. A service was held in the hall with the Salvation Army band in attendance. After the service the bandsmen and returned soldiers were entertained to morning tea.

Funds were raised by having cards, dances and functions to raise money to send parcels over to the local boys on active service overseas. The Anzac service was carried on for 33 years and as the R.S.A. decided to shorten the time and have the afternoon free for sports, etc, it was abandoned in 1968.

The Institute has gradually had fewer members, there being only 16 financial members now.

Foundation members and officers:

*President:* Mrs. Ana Munro

*Vice-President:* Mrs. K. Morgan

*Secretary-Treasurer:* Mrs. H. Hoskins

*Committee:* Mesdames H. B. Anderson, R. Barr, P. Coote, T. Guthrie and Miss Jean Munro.

Miss M. Munro, Mrs. G. Smith, Mrs. P. Sinclair, Mrs. B. Smith, Mrs. L. Haywood, Mrs W. Buckley, Mrs. A. Hanson, Mrs. W. Sands, Mrs. A. Creasey, Mrs. P. O'Connor, Mrs. S. Creasey, Mrs. Wallace, Miss C. Smallridge, Miss Walker, Mrs. W. Emery, Miss N. Buckley, Miss Jessie Munro, Mrs. A. Henderson, Miss S. Smallridge, Mrs. W. Weenink, Mrs. F. Hanson, Mrs. R. Gregory.

The twenty-first birthday was celebrated in 1952 with a social evening, sit down supper; each member being presented with a twenty-first key.

Mrs A. Wallace and Mrs. R. Rouse received Good Service Badges.

Mrs. A. Wallace and Mrs. Whitticase were also members of the Waimate executive.

In 1946 we were transferred to South Canterbury as it was closer and easier to travel to meetings.

## Peel Forest

THE PEEL FOREST WOMEN'S INSTITUTE was formed on March 14, 1939, by Mrs. Williams, President of the South Canterbury Federation. There was an attendance of 30 ladies, who later all joined the Institute.

Our first president was our school master's wife Mrs. Morrison and we were proud to think that our first Institute baby was born the next year to Mrs. Morrison.

During the first few years, owing to the war and petrol restrictions, our talks and demonstrations were very limited.

Parcels were sent every three months to men of the district serving overseas.

From our commencement we have supported the Leper Trust Board, sending them a donation each year.

In 1942 the Institute took over the responsibility of organising the Anzac service at Peel Forest and this has been carried on ever since. For several years, during and after the war, together with the St. Barnabas Guild we adopted an English child through the Save the Children Organisation.

A very conscientious member of our Institute was Mrs. L. Henry who was our president for seven years and later took the chair seven times as a vice-president. She was a much loved and valued member and her passing on in 1961 was a great loss to us.

For raising money we have held euchres, sales tables, raffles and latterly catering for two bus loads of people who were visiting the district as well as our monthly wandering 1/-.

A number of our meetings have been held at Blamswood where we were able to walk in the bush after the business had concluded. Blamswood is in the Peel Forest Park which is noted for its native bush. A meeting which was very much enjoyed was in the beautiful garden of Mrs Tasker at Ruapuna.

Our first meetings were held in the afternoons, but as this was not convenient for mothers with young children a change was made to evening meetings.

We have had several outings to Oamaru, Timaru and Waimate Gardens, Longbeach, Jean Todd Ward in the Timaru Hospital and the Temuka Insulation Works, also a film evening to see The Sound of Music. 'Help Your Neighbour' by which members could put their problems before the meeting and have them solved by the experience of others was introduced and proved very helpful.

Our hostesses each month pass a vote of thanks to any speaker or demonstrator. They are also to visit any one who is sick and may be in need of help and it is very much appreciated to have some one come in with a cheery smile, a bowl of soup or some scones or a cake and wash that sink full of dishes.

Every four months during the year we have a new correspondent who assists the secretary by writing letters of condolence, or congratulations on a birth or engagement etc, or to welcome a new-comer to the district. For several years we had a general knowledge quiz each meeting which proved very popular.

We have a link in England at Four Marks which was the home town of one of our members before coming to New Zealand.



For three years members have a secret friend. These were drawn from a box of sealed names. The name drawn was your secret friend for a year. The idea was to keep absolutely silent but to keep this one person in mind if at any time she needed help, or remembering her at Christmas or on her birthday. Much scheming was done to help your friend or perhaps leave some flowers for her without her seeing you and finding out who her friend was.

At the end of each year we entertain the children of the district to a fancy dress party, Father Christmas being in attendance. Each year we collect rags for the Girl Guides and we have adopted a patient at Sunnyside Hospital, Christchurch., and send a parcel to him each month. This is also the duty of the hostess.

Good Service Badges have been presented to four of our members. Our Institute colours are yellow and red and our flowers Rata and Kowhai.

## Pleasant Point

THE PLEASANT POINT WOMEN'S INSTITUTE was formed by Miss Stops, voluntary organiser, in July 1931.

The President, Mrs. W. T. Taylor; Secretary, Miss H. Kime. The subscription was 2/6 a member.

Roll call for early meetings were labour saving household hints, and uses of ammonia.

Competitions were an article from one yard of cretonne, article from flour-bag, something new from something old, plate of scones, plate of bran biscuits, and moccasins.

In the first year the membership was 100. The demonstrations were papier mache, tinfoil pictures, washing and dying of wool, dressmaking, and wax work, book-binding and rug making and cake icing.

In August 1932 a link was formed with Cuffley Women's Institute Hertfordshire.

October 1932 recorded a meeting of Washdyke, Rosewill, Taiko and Pleasant Point and these four Women's Institutes formed a group with Mrs. Glenday of Washdyke as President.

A dance was held for funds and the admission being members sixpence and a basket. Double tickets 2/- with concession tickets for families of three or over 1/- each.

In the 1933 annual meeting the balance sheet showed a fine credit of £6.

Members took an interest in the district and formed a committee to attend to the cleaning, planting and fencing around the memorial. A drama circle, a singing circle and folk

dancing group were formed with a membership of 50. Members exhibited and helped with arts and crafts exhibition held in Timaru.

Peggy squares were knitted for a quilt for the relief fund.

In February 1936, the Institute applied for space at the Federation meetings to make a display of work.

At the 1936 annual meeting the membership was 104, a slight decrease on previous years.

Recorded in September 1937 was a talk on hydatids and members showed keen interest on eradication.

Each year up to 1938 a special meeting was held to hear the delegates report on Annual Conference.

In 1940 the annual ball was again well attended and also a Centennial Ball was held.

Members undertook to knit for soldiers and parcels were sent each month.

In August 1941 members went on an eight day trip to Dunedin-Invercargill-Eglington Valley and Queenstown for the cost of £8.

The Institute were grateful for help given by Stratheona Trainees and providing afternoon team at sixpence a member for a field day.

The annual report showed a drop in membership owing to petrol restrictions and 43 Christmas parcels had been sent to local servicemen and three parcels each month.

The knitters had knitted 150 skeins of wool and garments sent to headquarters. Refugee sewing was undertaken and 93 garments had been dispatched.

In 1943 a very busy year, 156 parcels to servicemen being sent and money sent to four prisoners of war.

Members helped with supper at the Home Guard Ball and arranged many money raising functions.

After the war meetings took a different slant demonstrations being making and moulding dolls, arts and crafts, seagrass stools and talks on England and after war food problems. Parcels of food were sent to the link and people in Britain. Flower seeds were also sent to the link. The twenty-first birthday was celebrated with a 5.30 p.m. dinner and social. The guests of honour were Mesdames L. Williams, H. Finlay, F. Martin, E. W. Kerr. The first president, Mrs W. Taylor and the first secretary, Miss Kime. In 1960 membership was 50 but members were keen and competitions well supported. A choir was formed and the programmes were talk on scout jamboree, demonstration of dress making, how women should dress, floral demonstrations, sprays and floral bon bons.

Over the years support has been given to S.C. Federation of C.W.I. and catering at sales and the gymkhana.

Members have sold poppies annually since the year 1933 and this is a great achievement.

We still correspond with our link Cuffley; have an adopted patient at Sunnyside Hospital and also jointly sponsor a child.

In this centennial year our membership is 40 with Mrs. J. Dunbar as President and Mrs. K. Clarke, Secretary.

## Pleasant Valley

A MEETING of the ladies of the district convened by Mrs. V. Moir (wife of the local school teacher) was held in the Pleasant Valley Hall on June 3, 1954. Those present were Mesdames W. Crotty, A. Scott, M. Hughes, V. Moir, B. Suttie, G. Hill, T. Nelson, T. Le Lievre, A. Rose, H. McCaughan, J. Lenihan J. Leary, F. Hughes, J. Inglis, M. Rooney and O. Blissett.

Mrs. C. J. Kerr a v.o. and Mrs. A. J. Kennedy, Geraldine group convener were present and spoke on Institute affairs.

A resolution to form an Institute was moved by Mrs. J. Leary and seconded by Mrs. A. Scott and was carried unanimously.

The Institute is known as Pleasant Valley C.W.I. and meetings are held in the hall at 2 p.m. on the first Thursday in each month.

Mrs. W. Crotty was elected as first president and the following six ladies were elected to form the committee, namely Mesdames G. Hill, A. Scott, M. Hughes, V. Moir, B. Suttie and T. Nelson.

Two vice-presidents were Mesdames A. Scott and M. Hughes, Mrs. V. Moir was elected secretary and Mrs. B. Suttie treasurer.

At the next meeting on July 1, six new members were welcomed, Mrs. J. Timblich, R. Neutze, A. Crotty, E. Simmons, H. Omelvena, and J. Rooney. Of these 22 foundation members, eight still take an active interest in the C.W.I., namely Mesdames G. Hill, A. Scott, W. Crotty, J. Timblich, E. Simmons, H. Omelvena and J. Rooney. The membership has fluctuated between 22-28 during the years and at present there are 22 members.

Throughout the sixteen years we have been guided by seven presidents: Mrs. W. Crotty two years, Mrs. A. Scott two years, Mrs. H. Omelvena two terms of three years and one year, Mrs. M. Rooney three years, Mrs. F. Hughes three months, Mrs. Timblich four years, and the present president, Mrs. M. A. Hall is in her second year of her first term; and four secretaries: Mrs. V. Moir one year, Mrs. H. Omelvena two terms of three years and two years and Mrs. A. Patrick nine years is the present secretary in the second year of her third term.



Interest has been maintained at Federation level when Mrs. H. Omelvena served a term of four years on the Federation Executive. She is also a voluntary organiser and a recipient of a Good Service Badge.

We have supported the Federations annual eisteddfods and field days where many have been successful with their entries. On three occasions Pleasant Valley C.W.I. has been awarded the cup for the Institute gaining most points in the Geraldine group flower shows.

At the local A. and P. Show in 1970, the Challenge Cup for the Home Industry Class was gained by Pleasant Valley C.W.I. On a previous occasion we had been awarded second place in the same class.

Throughout the years we have supported by means of a donation, knitted and sewn articles and packages of articles of food, community projects such as St. John Ambulance, the local hospitals meals on wheels scheme and the Blind Institute and several charitable organisations, namely Salvation Army Home, Corso, Leper-man, etc.

Speakers on the programmes have covered a large variety of subjects all with the main idea of improving the status of the Country Women. For a number of years now the Institute has sponsored a patient at Templeton Farm, Bernie Leary, whose mother the late Mrs. J. Leary was a foundation member.

Throughout the years we have been a very happy band of women who have enjoyed the meetings and the knowledge that we belong to a wonderful world-wide organisation.

## Rangitira Valley

A MEETING was held on June 26, 1930, at the residence of Mrs. G. A. Davey, Rangitira Valley to discuss the formation of a Women's Institute. Miss Stops the Voluntary Dominion Organiser for the Women's Institute was present and explained the aims and objects of the Women's Institute. It was decided to form same and the following officers were elected:

*President:* Mrs. D. Kennedy

*Secretary:* Mrs. G. A. Davey

*Treasurer:* Mrs. G. Coventery

A date was set for the first meeting and members to bring a household treasure with them.

After the business portion of the meeting was concluded members had the opportunity of viewing a display of arts and crafts from English Institutes brought by Miss Stops.

Meetings were held in members' homes and in latter days in the Waitohi Library. Mode of transport in early years was by horse and gig, bicycle and walking. Demonstrations were: Paper flowers, puff pastry, sealing wax works, smocking, dress-making and dressing poultry.

Fund raising: Progressive euchre, sales tables and flag bridge.

During the war parcels were sent to local servicemen overseas.

Delegates had to travel a considerable distance to some Federation meetings in the earlier days as far apart as Christchurch and Waimate. Members also helped with bays at the winter show in Timaru. There were also rose shows and chrysanthemum shows. In later years members entered in Eisteddfods and entertained at the happiness club and entered choir festivals. First Institute babies — Mrs. Hartnett's and Mrs. Gould's twin daughters. In February 1966 a joint meeting was held with Waitohi W.I. to discuss and vote on amalgamation.

## Waitohi

OWING to the first minute books of the Waitohi C.W.I. being lost we have not got any records for the first meetings. It is known that the Institute was formed early in 1930 and that Mrs. Sewell, now of Christchurch was the first president. Some of the foundation members: Mrs. J. Moore, Miss Parish, Mrs. Crombie, Mrs. Parish, Mrs. Pagon, Mrs. Connell.

Members travelled many miles by horse and gig and bicycle and some also walked to their meetings.

The first Institute babies were Joyce Moore and Henry Goodeve.

Meetings were held in members' homes and in latter years in the Waitohi Library. During the war years food parcels were sent to soldiers from the districts who were serving overseas and to their Institute link in England. Childrens flannel singlets were handed in for the Lady Galwey Guild.

Fund raising was by raffles, sales tables, sixpenny bring and buy and wandering shilling. Drama classes were held and the tutor was Mr. H. V. Baigent.

A most unusual competition; each member was given a potato to be planted and a prize was given for the heaviest amount secured from same. Several weeks later it was noted that Mrs. Weavers was the winner — the weight ten pounds. Folk dancing was also held and combined with other Institutes for displays.





**SOUTH CANTERBURY FEDERATION EXECUTIVE, 1970**

**Back Row:** Mesdames H. Holmes, O. S. Priest, W. J. Hulleman, S. Brown, A. Kennedy and H. Lyon.  
**Front Row:** Mesdames A. F. Hill, I. G. Hurst ('Treasurer'), A. G. Hill ('Secretary'), B. J. Glass ('President'), S. Green ('Vice President'), J. Campbell ('Vice President').  
**Absent:** Mrs. R. F. Davie.





SOUTH CANTERBURY TOUR TO AUCKLAND, 1947  
Mrs. A. H. Gillingham, Organiser

During the years Picnics, Christmas parties and birthday parties were held.

In November 1965, Waitohi C.W.I. received an invitation from Rangitira Valley to combine the two Institutes and a special meeting was called. Members agreed to accept the proposal.

In February 1966, Mrs. Teale, the Federation President and two voluntary organisers and members of both Institutes were present to amalgamate. Members agreed that our Combined Institute be called Waitohi District and our first president was Mrs. A. Lyon.

## Rosewill

ON SEPTEMBER 3, 1931, 25 ladies from the Rosewill district met at the school to discuss starting a branch of the Country Women's Institute. The meetings were conducted by Miss Withell of the Otupua C.W.I. Mrs. P. Brosnahan was elected the first president, and the others present were: Mrs. N. Bailey, Mrs. C. Beckingsale, Miss H. Bassett, Miss K. Brosnahan, Miss E. Brosnahan, Mrs. S. Chapman, Mrs. G. Fraser, Miss D. Fraser, Miss J. Fraser, Mrs. J. Forster, Mrs. F. Hindley, Mrs. W. King, Mrs. Kitchen, Mrs. R. Moore, Miss N. Moore, Miss L. Moore, Mrs. W. Nicol, Miss K. Nicol, Mrs. A. O'Keefe, Mrs. Pattison, Mrs. P. Porter, Miss J. Porter, Mrs. L. Smith, Miss M. Smith.

Since then monthly meetings have been held, with the average membership about 20. For a time Mrs. A. Jones was a lone member.

During the years the members have always tried to take an active part in Institute affairs, and delegates have attended most of the Conferences. Entries have been made in the Eisteddfods and other competitions, with some successes, including first prizes for the bays at the 1967 and 1968 Timaru A. and P. Shows. Although a small Institute, the members donate to and work for charitable causes have been considerable.

During the war, a Red Cross Sub-centre was formed and many parcels were sent overseas. Home nursing classes were held, a knitting and sewing guild was formed, and the members also helped at the Sailor's Rest in Timaru. Links were made with the Women's Institutes at Grindleton and Barkham in England.

The Institute birthday is celebrated in September each year, the most important to date being the twenty-first birthday in 1952 when foundation and ex-members were invited to a social afternoon and to a dance in the evening.



In December parties or picnics are held for the children of the district.

Good Service Badges have been awarded to three members, Mrs. N. Bailey and Mrs. P. Brosnahan in 1941, and Mrs. G. C. Murray in 1965. Mrs. P. Brosnahan was made a Life Member in 1950.

Two of our members, Mrs. G. H. Steven and Mrs. G. C. Murray have served on the South Canterbury Executive, and Mrs. N. Bailey was a Group Leader for two terms.

One foundation member, Mrs. N. Bailey, is still a very active member of our Institute.

## Rangitata

FIRST MEETING, June 5, 1930.

On April 29, 1930, an enthusiastic meeting of ladies took place in the Rangitata Soldiers Memorial Hall. Mrs. Ross Brodie presided and welcomed Miss A. M. Stops, Dominion Organiser for Women's Institutes who had recently arrived from England. She gave an interesting address on the Women's Institute Movement, outlining its aims, constitution and advantages and showed how the movement was steadily growing. Institutes originated in Canada 32 years before and during the war the movement had been taken to England. It was ten years since the first Institute had been started in N.Z. and there were in 1930, 100 Institutes operating in New Zealand.

It was decided from this meeting to form a Women's Institute at Rangitata and those present signified their intention of joining, and the following officers were elected:

*President:* Mrs. Ross Brodie

*Secretary:* Mrs. G. C. Chalmers

*Vice-President:* Mrs. G. Tate

*Committee:* Mesdames G. Shaw, A. B. Mahan, W. J. Miller, D. Sugrue and Reid.

The first Thursday of the month was chosen as the day for the monthly meetings and it is still today, 40 years later.

The first monthly meeting was held in the Rangitata Soldiers Memorial Hall on June 5, 1930. Miss Stops was present and had with her a wonderful collection of handwork made by members of English Women's Institute. Mrs. G. A. McDonald of Orari was also present at this meeting and gave suggestions for early meetings. There were 23 members present. A display of family treasures was held at this meeting and some rare curios were exhibited. As the year progressed competitions were



introduced and a sales table started with commission from the goods sold going to W.I. funds.

As members were from both Rangitata, Rangitata Island and Orton it was eventually agreed that meetings be held alternately in each hall.

In its first years the W.I. was very closely connected with country dancing, choirs and drama and funds were raised in this way.

A library was incorporated with W.I. for many years and a cradle roll was operated and each baby received a small gift from the baby box which members had made until 1937.

In 1932 a Christmas party was arranged for the children. This has been continued through the years and some years as many as 60 children enjoy a visit from Father Christmas with us.

During the Second World War our W.I. was responsible for forming a War Guild and our W.I. members made many gifts for the soldiers and a lot of parcels were sent overseas. A bedspread made from autographed calico squares was sent to a hospital. Each member paid a small amount for the honour of having their name embroidered on it. A quilt was made and sent to the Queen Mary Hospital in Hanmer in 1945.

A table cloth was made by Mrs. W. J. Miller and embroidered for use at our meetings in 1932, and it is still in use today. A banner made by members with a fishing scene at the Rangitata River was unfortunately lost at Conference in 1948. This has not yet been replaced.

In 1948 we formed a link with Breage W.I. in Cornwall. Parcels of soap, fat, cheese honey, meat-spreads, Christmas cakes, books, cards and calendars have been sent to them. Two of our members have visited Breage and attended their W.I.—Mrs. G. Edgar and Miss T. Fitzharris.

In June 1951 we celebrated our twenty-first birthday with a re-union of ex-members. nearly 70 guests. A two tiered cake was made by Mrs. G. Edgar, a foundation member who was president at the time of the celebrations. A dance was held in the evening. In June 1955 we celebrated our Silver Anniversary with another re-union. Mrs. G. Edgar and Miss H. Chalmers making the two tiered cake. Approximately 100 were present. A donation from ex-members was spent on a silver tray for sewing competitions and engraved accordingly.

Membership has not been steady because so many work in transferable positions. 1951 was the lowest with only 14, while in 1936 we reached our peak with 36. 1969 it was 28, which is a very good percentage of the women in our district.

Our finances down through the years have varied, one year we only had 1/9 on hand. Concerts, euchre parties, flag 500 evenings,

dances and raffles have been our methods of raising funds and for the last few years all money from the sales table has gone to the funds.

The golden thread was read at meetings but has long since been discontinued.

We have had six Good Service Badges awarded to the following members:

1953: Miss T. Fitzharris	1964: Miss M. Miller
1957: Mrs. G. Edgar	1967: Mrs. H. Mahan
1958: Miss Helen Chalmers	1968: Mrs. Ruddenklaui

Mrs. G. Edgar has represented us on the South Canterbury Federation for two terms of three years. Mrs. G. Edgar obtained leave of absence to go overseas and before her departure the W.I. members gave her a farewell dinner in the Rangitata Island Hall.

Debates have been held, some of the subjects being:

Skirts versus slacks

Nineteenth Century authors versus Twentieth Century authors

Married versus single

Town husbands versus country husbands

Should women wear foundation garments

In the earlier years the Rangitata W.I. supported the Stratheona Hostel and the Maori Development Fund, Westminster Abbey Appeal and many others.

In 1938 the W.I. presented a tea wagon to the Rangitata Hall Committee. Scrap books have been made for children's wards. Gifts of bed socks and bottle covers etc., have been made for the elderly in hospital. Every sick member in hospital has been visited and flowers and cakes taken to their homes on their return. Donations have been made to the Leper Appeal and parcels of soap and cottons sent.

The Rangitata C.W.I. is an annual member of the Aged Welfare Appeal in Geraldine. The sponsored child, the Blind Institute, the Ambulance Appeal, Corso, etc., have all been supported. In 1940 a tree was planted on the main highway.

Several outings for the elderly citizens of Timaru, and the Friendly Club of Geraldine have been arranged, when as many as 150 guests have been catered for each time.

Through the years we had travel talks beautifully illustrated to us with pictures, photos and of later years with coloured slides. Through our speakers we have visited almost every country of the world. Each speaker's interest being different, has shown us both the rich and the poor side of each country and its way of life.

When you know a good thing pass it on, has been fully carried out by so many people in coming out to our meetings to give us demonstrations. They ranged from covering umbrellas

to binder twine mats, rose pruning to artificial respiration, dorset stitchery to curing sheep skins.

In 1940 the Rangitata W.I. catered for the local gymkhana to get funds. Dressmaking, millinery and basket classes were organised with success.

No meetings are held in January. This is considered the Rangitata picnic month and outings have been made to Longbeach, Timaru, Waimate and Peel Forest. In 1933 a garden party was held and in 1938 members went to the Olde English Faire at Washdyke.

1933 and 1934 the folk dancing team under the leadership of Mrs. B. H. Watts had considerable success in the festivals as did the play-reading group. They staged a play at Ashburton Festival in 1934 called 'The Home Front'.

1933 the play-reading group with Mrs. Ross Brodie as leader tied with Timaru for a shield at the South Canterbury Drama Festival.

Through these 40 years we have had varied and instructive talks on almost every subject such as League of Nations, Medical Research, Rules of the Road, Beekeeping, First Aid, Home Nursing, Diseases and Their Prevention, the Process of Cheese Making, Food for Britain, Horticulture and Trussing a fowl, etc.

Flower shows have been held annually. For birthdays, the Rangitata C.W.I. have had varied parties, some years inviting all neighbouring W.I.'s and W.D.F.F.'s. Trips to the theatre to see Salad Days, Charley's Aunt and the ballet and other shows have also been our way of celebrating.

Mrs. G. Edgar has been an enthusiastic member for 40 years, and Mrs. H. S. Mahan has too, for 34 years.

Silver trophies for our competitions have been presented to our W.I. as follows:

Brodie Cup for Thrift competition given in 1932 to be won twice in succession or three times at intervals has been won by Mrs. B. H. Watts

M. A. Tate (a former member) Memorial Cup for cooking points

Mrs. B. H. Watts' Cup for Aggregate points

Mrs. B. H. Watts' Tray for Miscellaneous points

Mrs. G. Edgar's Rose Bowl for Flower of the Month

Rangitata C.W.I. Cup for Bloom points

Ex-members Silver Tray for Sewing points

Frances Miller (a former member) Memorial Vase for Flower Show points.

Delegates have almost always attended South Canterbury Federation meetings and to Dominion Conference and have come back inspired and with renewed confidence to work for home and country. The service we are privileged to render to the



Women's Institute is small compared with all we receive from it, the enrichment of our lives in so many ways and the wonderful friendships formed.

## Seadown

A SMALL COUNTRY DISTRICT situated along the coast between Washdyke and the Opihi River this area is mainly of mixed farming type. This land was originally part of the Levels Estate and owned by the Rhodes Brothers.

The name Seadown is known all over the world more so in the racing world as it is the birthplace of that famous race horse Phar Lap. It was also the birthplace of the famous boxer Eddie Parker. Early on, the land was sub-divided and neat farms were established and as in all country districts it was noticed that more companionship was needed for the country women so on January 14, 1931, the C.W.I. was formed, ten Seadown ladies attending this meeting.

The meeting was presided over by a Mrs. L. E. Williams, then President of the Canterbury Federation and the first president of the Seadown C.W.I. was Mrs. F. Smith, vice-president Mrs. Cain who now resides in Timaru. Treasurer was Mrs. C. Brosnahan now in Fairlie, secretary Miss Mildred Topham, now in Christchurch. Committee, Mesdames Edgar, Southern, O'Boyle, Horwell, Millar and Miss Kane.

Meetings were held once a month at the local school on Saturday afternoons, the yearly fee being £1 for rent of school. At the second meeting the membership rose to 23, an increase of 13, which showed the high interest of the Seadown ladies in this movement.

The usual roll calls and mottos were well received and answered down through the years and of interest was the planting of a Scarlet Oak in the school grounds in 1937 — to commemorate the Coronation of King George VI.

Many activities have been enjoyed especially in the early years when two teams took part in folk dancing competitions.

During the war years members carried on the C.W.I. regardless of many hardships such as conveyance to meetings, some members having a considerable distance to travel. However with good patriotic spirit members worked hard in seeing that each district soldier when leaving for camp was presented with biscuits etc. Parcels were sent overseas for two years, each member contributing 6d a month. Over the years many members have been presented with Good and Long Service Badges, these — Good Service Badges were presented to the following at the twenty-first birthday party: Mesdames Kane, White, Cain,

Hewson, Brosnahan and McCully. All great workers for our Institute, one member in her 37 years of membership missed only one meeting.

For many years now elderly citizens at Temuka and Timaru have been entertained by our members sometimes in the hall and other times in the homes of various members. Also members have travelled to such places as Margaret Wilson Home, Home of Compassion etc., providing afternoon teas and gifts for each person. Collections are also undertaken by members especially the Blind Appeal.

The years rolled on and a local hall was built which resulted in the C.W.I. meeting place being changed from the school to the hall, also it was decided to have evening meetings to cater for our younger members of which we have a large percentage.

All members have been interested in their efforts to help others, many taking office for very long terms, one being Mrs. H. Gibson who received a Good Service Badge being our president for ten years and again later for two years. One member even undertook the duties of president and secretary combined for three months.

Now verging on our fortieth birthday we can safely say that since the C.W.I. was formed in Seadown its motto 'Upward and Onward' has been carried out in the true spirit and the benefit therefrom has been inestimable.

## Sherwood Downs

ON JULY 9, 1931, in spite of nine inches of snow on the ground, residents of Ashwick Flat, Sherwood Downs and Clayton met at the Sherwood Downs School to consider forming a Women's Institute. Mrs. West, president of the Fairlie Women's Institute, was asked by the Federation of Institutes to attend as voluntary organiser as Miss Stops was unable to be present.

Mrs. West outlined the work Miss Stops was doing in the Dominion, what Institutes stood for and what help could be given to those living in rural districts.

It was unanimously voted that the meeting form an Institute to be known as the Sherwood Downs Women's Institute, meetings to be held every third Thursday in the month. Election of officers was:—

*President:* Mrs. F. Carter

*Vice-president:* Mrs. A. B. Mackenzie

*Secretary:* Miss G. Riddle

*Treasurer:* Mrs. M. B. Reid

*Committee:* Mesdames C. Ross, S. P. Bray, S. Harper, J. McBeth, and Misses Whitefield, Macdonald and Scott.

The first meeting was held on August 20, 1931, when Mrs. L. E. Williams, President of Canterbury Federation of Women's Institutes, spoke on formation and general objects of the Women's Institute movement, and Mrs. Chisnall, Federation treasurer, briefly explained the business side of the meeting.

The following month we became affiliated. Organisations to benefit during the next few months were the Red Cross in Christchurch (donations of money and parcels); Benefit Society, Fairlie (sacks of potatoes and vegetables) and the Timaru Relief Society. Support was also given to the combined Institutes bay at the Mackenzie A. and P. Show.

The Annual Meeting in March 1932 recorded 26 financial members and cash in hand £1/15/5. At this meeting Mrs. A. B. Mackenzie was elected president, a position which she held 1932-37; 1939-45; 1949-51; 1956-57. The decisions made this year included choosing an iceland poppy as our floral emblem, forming a drama club and a glee club, help in establishing an Institute Depot in Timaru, to which support was given until its closure in 1959, the sending of a delegate to Conference — all Conferences from 1932 to 1968 have been attended by a delegate — the October meeting to be a garden party at the home of Mrs C. Ross, this being an annual event until 1959, and the holding of a Christmas party for all children of the district, which is still in force today.

In 1933 Sherwood Downs formed a link with Kirriemuir in Scotland, which unfortunately lapsed, and with Barton-Seagrave, Kettering, England, to whom we still write, contact having been renewed in 1968 after a lapse of many years. It was to this English link that we sent food parcels and 40 pound tins of fat during World War Two and from whom we received a painting of the Barton-Seagrave Church, in the hall of which these members hold their meetings. This painting hangs in the Sherwood Downs Hall. Permission to form a garden around the Ashwick War Memorial having been granted by the Mackenzie County Council, Sherwood members tended this until it became necessary in recent years to replace it with concrete. We have been responsible for placing an Anzac Wreath there since 1934.

Members were invited by Federation to contribute to the compiling of a Cookery Book, and in the Federations competition 'My Impressions of Conference' held in 1933, Sherwood Downs gained first and second placings. Successful too had been entries in an Arts and Crafts Exhibition in Timaru. Mrs. A. B. Mackenzie was made a voluntary organiser in 1934 and apart from two breaks in her term of office, continued with this work until 1959. This year, too, our president donated a silver vase for the monthly competitions, and this is still in use.



To help finances, dances had been held in Mr S. P. Bray's granary and monthly euchre and 500 parties run in conjunction with the school committee. These functions had proved most successful and with improved finances we were able to add to our list of names for donations the Makogai Leper Fund.

A tablecloth was made in gold material with maroon border with a replica in the centre of the Institute Badge, and each member was requested to embroider her signature thereon. To date 121 names have been worked on this cloth which is used at all our meetings. In 1936 our banner won second place in the Banner Competition. This banner was designed, embroidered and made up by eight W.I. members. Details are as follows:—

*Institute Colours:* Maroon and Gold

*Institute Floral Emblem:* Iceland Poppy

*On Shield:* Gules, on a chevron argent, three iceland poppies between two garbs and one fleece.

*Symbolic Meanings:*

*Chevron* in silver lame represents rivers bounding district

*Golden Fleece* represents wool

*Garbs* represent grain

We were happy to be able to send two of our junior members to Timaru to attend Girls Educational Week, Miss E. Bray in 1935, and Miss E. Cuthbertson in 1936, and through the efforts of Miss E. Bray we won the Davies Cup, presented by Miss Davies for a cooking competition among the Institutes. On four occasions we have donated trees, in 1937 in honour of the Coronation; 1939 (in conjunction with Ashwick Flat) planted on main highway at Rangitata; 1947 monetary donation towards replacing trees on Seadown main highway, and 1959 planted on Fairlie main highway to commemorate Centennial of South Canterbury. In 1937 donations were made to the King George Memorial Fund and towards a Mackenzie Institute Cup to be competed for at the Mackenzie A. and P. Show.

When an appeal was made by Federation in 1939 for co-operation in case of national emergency, members offered to billet children from danger zones. Through the years of the Second World War, members regularly contributed knitted balaclavas, socks, gloves, mittens, skull caps and Cranwell jerseys for our fighting men, sent food and clothing parcels to district men and women serving overseas, supported Corso, the Lady Galwey Guild, Sub-branch of Red Cross formed in Fairlie, and the 'Dig for Victory' campaign. Fat was sent to a school in England and an appeal for fat for soap making for Greek people was supported.

In 1945 we won a trophy presented by Mrs. L. E. Williams for the highest percentage of babies for the year. This brass bell

has been in use ever since at our meetings. To help augment our funds we organised successful hare drives in 1948, 1949 and 1952 and it was unfortunate that accidents elsewhere put this sport out of favour. Donations were made to the Restoration Fund for Westminster Abbey, the Spencer Memorial Fund, Stratheona, and help given our group in the 'Snowball 35' project. Also assistance was given when the group was hostess to Southland C.W.I. members.

Our Silver Jubilee in 1956 was attended by 17 of those who became members during the first year of the Institute's existence, and by our Institute baby who presented a Silver Cup for most points each month. A gardening book to be competed for each year was presented by a foundation member, Miss C. Macdonald. Help was given with the Floral Week in Timaru in 1959, tray-cloths and biscuits donated to Fairlie Hospital, toys towards the Nurses' Chapel Fund, Timaru and the Queen Elizabeth II Arts Council in 1963.

There was much discussion about the Mackenzie Group forming a sub-division of the South Canterbury Federation in 1960, and although we did not favour the move, we were prepared to join the new Federation if formed. In 1961 Sherwood joined with Allandale in providing afternoon team for our M.P. Mr. A. Dick and Mrs. Dick, Councillors and their wives and general public after the unveiling of the Memorial Plaque at the Ashwick Monument.

We decided in 1964 to adopt a mental patient to whom we still send parcels. Donations were made to the Memorial to Mrs. E. L. McLeod and the I.H.C., this latter having now become an individual offering. Members worked well in support of the group street stall for Federation funds held in Fairlie in 1965. The sum of £46 was raised. Other street stalls supported were Federation funds (Timaru 1966), Mackenzie Pensioners' Flats (1968) and donations made to Freedom from Hunger, Sponsored Child, Talbot Hospital, Timaru (Bedsocks), Childrens' Home, Timaru (aprons), Elderly Citizens, Fairlie (biscuits) and monetary donations to Barnados Home, Auckland, Golden Jubilee Project and Conference tables.

Members have taken interest in entering at the annual Eisteddfod and over the years have had their share of success. In 1969 we were placed first equal with Milford for the Cup for Section II, Mrs. P. Rayne and Mrs. M. T. Hutt being successful with painting and photography respectively. Last year members combined with Allandale to enter in the South Canterbury Choir Festival in which we were placed second.

We have been honoured by the presentation of a Certificate of Appreciation from the New Zealand Foundation for the Blind

for seven years service in collecting district envelopes during Braille Week and we have assisted the I.H.C. appeal in the same way.

It is gratifying to note that one of our members, Mrs. A. B. Mackenzie was awarded a Gold Service Badge in 1949. She has served on South Canterbury Executive and on Dominion Council. Others to serve on Executive are Mrs. J. E. Macdonald, Mrs. I. E. Ibbetson and Mrs. W. S. Wreford. Holders of Good Services Badges are Mrs. C. Ross, Mrs. J. Hutt and Mrs. W. S. Wreford.

We formed a link in 1968 with the Gregory branch of C.W.A. Northern Queensland, Australia.

We feel it fitting to conclude this history of our Institute with a special tribute to Mrs. A. B. MacKenzie whose untiring efforts, particularly during the years of the Second World War, are responsible for keeping our Institute going. For years she attended Conference as our delegate, at her own expense, and without her willingness to hold office repeatedly as president our Institute probably would not be in existence today.

## Taiko

ON JULY 9, 1932, a meeting was held in the Taiko School for the purpose of forming a Country Women's Institute in the district. Miss Withell of Otupua and Miss Begg of St Andrews addressed the meeting. Mrs Morrison was elected president and the first committee were named as follows: Mrs. C. T. Stewart, Mrs F. G. Armstrong, Mrs. C. C. McPhedran, Mrs. L. Smith, Mrs. C. Talbot, Mrs. A. Marshall and Miss Violet Morrison. Other first year members included Mrs. P. R. Talbot, Mrs W. J. White, Miss May Morrison, Miss Muriel McPherson, Mrs. Jones, Miss Jones, Mrs. J. A. McLeod, Miss K. O'Sullivan, Mrs. G. O. Brown, Mrs. J. T. Stewart, Mrs. Relling, Mrs. Gibson, Mrs. H. Marshall, Mrs. P. Armstrong and Mrs. McCaw.

Monthly competitions for cookery, handwork, and floral art were arranged from the first meeting. These competitions are still keenly followed and at present members compete for a cup presented by Mrs. J. D. McPhedran for most points overall. Mrs. C. T. Stewart donated a runner-up prize annually. The McLeod memorial tray is competed for in cookery and produce and a cash prize is given for premier bloom. Bulbs have been given for each first prize during the year.

Demonstrations for the first year included the making of moccasins, country dancing, tin-foil pictures, papier mache, cake icing and decorating and making slippers from old felt hats.



One of the highlights of the first year was a concert given by a Maori concert party from Temuka and this was followed by a dance, proceeds of which were divided between the Plunket Society and Taiko C.W.I.

On October 8, 1932 the birth of the first Institute baby was announced. Master Edwin Talbot, son of Mrs. P. R. Talbot. A presentation was made to Master Talbot and during the first year Mrs. McConnell was honoured with a presentation as the first Institute bride.

The Levels Group which was formed included Taiko, Pleasant Point, Rosewill and Washdyke. Taiko members agreed to pay two pence per person to Dominion Federation. During depression days members were pleased to support the C.W.I. Depot, selling their produce there.

During May 1935, an Arts and Crafts Exhibition was held in the Bay Hall. Taiko gained first placing over all at the exhibition and a special prize for cookery was won by a Taiko member, Mrs. R. Gliddon, nee Miss Ngaire McLeod.

Taiko members have over the years been keenly interested in drama and music and have competed in both drama festivals and musical competitions with much success. Taiko have had the honours of winning the Musical Cup on occasions at the Eisteddfod and also the Rose Bowl concerts have been a regular feature for the years programme and the items at these evenings have mainly been given by Institute members.

Interest in local organisations has always had the support of members. Gifts of produce, cookery, handwork and money have been given during the years, some of these have been sent overseas.

Three of our members have been associated with the South Canterbury Federation. The late Mrs. J. A. McLeod was a keen Institute member and did a great deal to stimulate the interest in cookery competitions.

Mrs McLeod gave a great deal of her time as secretary organiser of the housekeeping scheme held in conjunction with the co-ordinating committee of C.W.I. and W.D.F.F. This scheme was a great success and this was mainly due to the untiring work done by Mrs. McLeod. Mrs. McLeod also did a great deal of work at Stratheona School at Pleasant Point in the training of girls in homecraft.

Mrs. J. D. McPhedran one of our past Institute presidents served a seven year term on the South Canterbury Federation, three of these years as secretary and four as Federation president.

Mrs. C. G. Chittock has also served on the executive for four years. Five Good Service Badges have been awarded over the 38 years of Institute history. Mrs. J. D. McPhedran, Mrs. F. G.

Armstrong, Mrs. C. T. Stewart, Mrs. C. G. Chittock and the late Mrs. J. A. McLeod.

Members at present are enjoying exchanging link letters with members of Compton C.W.I. in Surrey, England.

During the last few years members have enjoyed an annual outing to the South Canterbury Operatic Productions.

An open evening is organised once a year and is always well supported by district residents.

The name of our district originated from a Maori shepherd who helped capture James Mackenzie on the Levels Run on February 28, 1855 and had in his possession 1000 ewes belonging to James Rhodes.

When the Institute was formed 38 years ago the word Taiko was spelt 'Tycho' that was the English version, now it has been changed back to the old Maori spelling Taiko. 38 happy years have been enjoyed by women of our district as Institute members.

## Temuka

ON JUNE 6, 1930, the first inaugural meeting to form the Temuka Women's Institute was held in the Borough Council Chambers — about 20 women being present.

Miss Stops (dominion organiser) was present and gave an address on the aims and objects of the Institute. Following this line of information Miss Ferguson was elected president, Mrs. Burdon vice-president, Miss Twomey secretary, Mrs. Franklin treasurer and the committee was: Mrs. E. J. Cooper jun., and Miss H. Thompson.

The first meeting of the newly formed Temuka Women's Institute was held at 'Ashfield' the residence of Mrs. John Hayhurst about 35-40 members were present. (Incidentally three streets are named in Temuka after the Hayhurst family).

The aims and objects of the Institute were once again outlined to the new members by Mrs. G. A. Macdonald.

The following members offered to donate: Tea and sugar, Mrs. Hayhurst; milk, Mrs. Brookland; wood, Mrs. Buzan and Mrs. R. Taylor; kindling wood, Mrs. Sheen; until end of December.

At the next meeting in July, four members were elected: Mrs. Brown, McInness, Benham and Miss McShane. It was also decided not to send a delegate to Conference.

A thrift exhibition was held at Geraldine.

At the September meeting 22 members were elected.

Miss Sunway came from Timaru.

In December 1931, the first link letter from Lee was received.

By this time 146 members were financial.

The second annual meeting, and during the year Miss Ferguson was elected librarian to the Federation of plays, etc.

Now in April 1932 handwork, garden and musical and play reading circles were formed and the first bride of the Temuka Institute was Miss Annie Brown (now Mrs. Cyril Davies of Geraldine). Then in July our own cookery book was started.

The Christmas party at the end of the year 1932, was combined with the Women's Division. Two Christmas cakes and two sales tables were on hand and it is reported that the sales table did brisk business.

For many years after this they combined.

At the third annual meeting 174 financial members were present. Not much to report between the fourth and fifth annual meetings. During the sixth year of our formation one outstanding feature was the Federation Torchlight Pageant which was held at Timaru — all Institutes taking part. Temuka's part being 'King Alfred burnt the Cakes' and the recognition by the King to our founder Miss Jerome Spencer — congratulations being sent.

On the Main South Road (highway) trees were donated and members took part in planting them.

The country dance festival was held at Geraldine — Temuka team won the Federation Cup.

Members billeted the blind boys band from Auckland and in 1936 our banner was designed and embroidered by Mrs. Stewart and many members of the W.I.

Thrift articles were made for competition and given to the Relief Depot during the depression years.

Under a sub-committee of Mrs. Brookland, Mrs. D. C. Clark and Mrs. D. Taylor a bay was entered in the winter show.

In 1937 Mrs. Routledge donated a silver cup to the W.I. for most points in needlework, in the handcraft section at the Temuka Flower Show and how proud was our Institute when they were the first winners of this cup.

Another interesting point — a donation of £2 was made to the Temuka Borough Council for the purchase of native trees to be planted in the Domain and later all trees were named and plates erected on all the valuable trees by members of our garden circle. It was during this year that our first president Miss Ferguson resigned and Mrs. D. Taylor was elected our second president. Mrs. Goodman gained honourable mention in the Home and Country for her essay 'Something in my Garden'.

As a result of direct action a district nurse was appointed and Nurse Gregory was welcomed as a new member.

During the war years, the Institute members played a very important part helping and assisting in the community. Parcels were sent quarterly to all next of kin of members and members



took an active part in Lady Galwey Patriotic Committee, Red Cross and all soldiers functions. Scrap iron was collected and sent to Christchurch and Mrs. W. Tait's home was the depot for the Famine Emergency Committee for the collection of fats etc. For two years we sent fat to our link and this was acknowledged in 1949 saying how much they appreciated our efforts, also groceries sent by the garden circle.

1946: The flowering apple trees were planted in the Domain in memory of Miss G. Brown, a founder member of the Institute. There was also a marching contest for members, led by Mrs. W. Tait who gained a special prize.

1948: Membership now 90. The falling off of membership was through the Ministry of Works camp shifting to Christchurch. The choir won its first contest and were successful in winning the cup for seven to eight years, competing against other Institutes in the Federation, Mrs. G. Smart and Mrs. D. Kelman being our conductors.

1952: About 30 members had a wonderful 2½ days at the Hermitage and the price of same recorded was £5/16/6 for the weekend.

1954: Came the visit of Eastern Southland members to South Canterbury and these members were billeted at Temuka. All Institutes of the Federation entertained the party and many firm friendships were made.

1955: Our Silver Jubilee year, and what a celebration we had to mark such an event. The president, Mrs. F. M. Martin, at the banquet welcomed mesdames J. D. McPhedran, president of S.C. Federation, Mrs. E. W. Kerr, Dominion Executive member; Mrs. W. H. Finlay, Mrs. J. M. McLeod, voluntary organisers; Mrs. D. Taylor, secretary; and Mrs. Tooley, president W.D.F.F. The jubilee cake was made and iced by Mrs. C. Brenton. 150 members attended the banquet and were later joined by husbands and friends of members. Throughout these years, we must not forget in passing the community work done by our Institute such as collecting for the Blind Institute, Rice Bowl Appeal, Leper and Corso, sponsored child, Health Camp, Salvation Army Boys' Home, Biscuits for Geriatric Hospital, Beverley Home, The Grange, Meals on Wheels, dispensing supper at music festival.

However the years have rolled on, and this being our Golden Jubilee year of the Dominion Federation, we begin a new era in our movement which we hope will go on from strength to strength.

Two minute books missing from 1956.

# Te Ngawai

IN APRIL 1935, Mrs. A. MacKenzie travelled from 'Clayton', Fairlie to the Te Ngawai School and after describing the aims and objects of the Women's Institute to the group of about 20 women present it was agreed to form the Te Ngawai W.I. The first president was Mrs. J. Judge and the secretary-treasurer Mrs. G. Guy.

Unfortunately the earliest minute books are lost and we are grateful to those foundation members who have helped us compile this record. The earliest records we have are of 1941 and from those records we see that our Institute worked hard for Home and Country.

During the war every serviceman and woman (and at one time there were ten) from the district received farewell gifts on their departure and quarterly food and comfort parcels were sent to each one from W.I. members.

To raise the necessary finance for this euchre parties were held and we remember that kerosene was purchased with the prizes and tea and sugar — and one can visualise the lovely brass lamps with white globes hanging from the ceiling of the still used school room where now hangs the more utilitarian electric lights — perhaps we regret these lamps no longer being used, but no doubt the members who had attended to the cleaning and filling necessary often wished for a switch to click on and off.

In addition to the regular euchre parties the Institute ran and still continued Christmas Raffle, every member donating goodies which collectively made a worthwhile prize. The tickets were priced at 3d each! They are now worth 5 cents and the raffle still attracts many buyers of tickets.

In reading the early competition books it is obvious that members of today have the same interest as did those members 30 years ago—the same competitions appear over the years. Demonstrations however are very different, as an example in 1944 — hats from flour bags and scraps of print, refooting stockings, putting foot of a sock in two parts to facilitate refooting — quilts filled with teased fleece wool (but to come back to the present day again) spinning and first aid. Members knitted for the Patriotic Society and in 1944 made balaclavas, Cranwell jerseys, pullovers, scarves, mittens, socks with garments for refugee children; clean fat also was saved and sent away.

Te Ngawai Institute supported the Depot in Timaru whilst this was in operation and members were glad to avail themselves of the opportunity to make pin money through the sale of

handcrafts, baking, etc., at the Depot during the hard years of the depression.

Members were interested in the group travel and we read of one trip to Stewart Island which cost £8 for eight days away.

Our Institute lost members through the population decreasing and consisted at one time of five members. However these stalwarts kept going and perhaps because the meeting time has been changed from afternoon to evening, we now have 28 members.

All members take a keen interest in the competitions both at Institute, Group and Federation level, and we have had considerable success over several years at the annual eisteddfod.

A delegate has always been sent to the Dominion Conference and also to Group and Federation meetings. (

Several members have been presented with Good Service Badges and they are: Mrs. V. Howes, Mrs. G. Guy, Mrs. R. Sullivan, Mrs. J. MacIntosh, Mrs. J. Guy, Mrs. L. Wills, Mrs. C. Brown.

All members are so enthusiastic and interested in the C.W.I. and its aspects, enjoying the social atmosphere combined with the business-like running of meetings that it is very obvious that the Te Ngawai C.W.I. will go on from strength to strength as will the movement throughout the world.

## Washdyke

ON OCTOBER 15, 1931, a meeting was held in the Washdyke Hall, for the purpose of forming a branch of the Women's Institute. There were 30 present, and Mrs. Stocker introduced Miss Withell (president of the Otupua Branch) who spoke on the aims and objects of the Institute. The following officers were elected: President, Mrs. D. Glenday; secretary-treasurer, Mrs. C. Jackman; Committee, Mesdames Stocker, Doak, G. King, Phillips, Anderson, Burrell, Gilmore and Misses Cartwright and Ramsay. It was decided to hold meetings at 2.30 p.m. on second Thursday of each month. The first competition was a Christmas gift costing not more than 1/-. The annual subscription was 2/- a year.

At each meeting a competition was arranged for the following month, with a prize donated by a member. Some of the first competitions, were 'Something for a Child, not more than 2/6', best article made from a flour bag', and the first bring and buy brought in the sum of 3/9d. Six to eight members regularly attended neighbouring Institutes, Federation meetings, and birthday parties. The first birthday at Washdyke, took the form of a social evening. Invitations were sent to other branches, and 1/- admission was charged for non-members.



Over the years the roll increased and included some well-known names, until in August 1934 there were 49 members. As the membership increased, so did the number of competitions, and the point system with only annual prizes was introduced.

The first nine years were very active ones, as they were called upon to help with all the local functions, and raised money for improvements to the Soldiers War Memorial, supper room and piano for the hall, electric pump and water system for the Washdyke School, and many more smaller amounts for charity.

This was achieved by holding concerts, dances, socials, euchre evenings, and a garden fete in the race course. The first C.W.I. baby was baby Paul, born on June 1933, and the first bride was Mrs. Major in November 1933. In 1932 Washdyke paid 15/- to join the Depot Shop in Timaru, helping with goods to sell, and also with biscuits for the tea rooms run in conjunction with the shop.

Several members always helped with the catering for the C.W.I. functions held in the Bay Hall or at the gardens, and other functions where help was needed. They also took part in a folk dancing festival held in Temuka, September 1933. Each year they made a wreath, and placed it on the Memorial on Anzac Day. In April 1937 a competition was held for a design for the banner. The winners were Mrs. Blay and Miss A. Phillips. This year members helped plant trees on the Main Highway, to commemorate the Coronation of King George VI, and they also planted a pussy-willow and silver birch in the hall grounds.

In June 1935 Washdyke gained second place in the C.W.I. Exhibition. In 1938 some of the older members were compiling a book on Early Washdyke, which they planned to sell for 10/- a copy. About this time they sold copies of a W.I. book called 'Tales of Pioneer Women'. At their children's Christmas party that year there were three sets of twins among the 30 members children.

During the war years, members formed a branch of the Red Cross and Home Nursing. They did knitting and sewing for the Forces, and arranged all the farewell and home-coming dances for the local men, and helped with other outside functions for the Forces. Each month they packed and sent parcels overseas, and raised money by collecting scrap metal and rubber.

A bring and buy was held each month to help buy goods for the soldiers' parcels. Competitions about this time were for such things as tins of gingernuts or other biscuits for the parcels. There was no birthday party cake that year, and children at the Christmas party were given 1d each instead of a present. A euchre evening was held each month for funds.

In August 1941, members stood in silence for their first loss of a foundation member, Mrs. Ramsay.

In September, 1941, the meeting day was changed from Thursday to Wednesday because of dressmaking classes held on Thursday. Members voted in favour of holding a Conference in each island. Although each month there had been very interesting demonstrations and speakers, the first floral demonstration was in September 1940.

In 1944 the wandering shilling was introduced by Mrs. Robinson. The bloom competitions were changed from best bloom to single bloom, and cluster. In April 1945 the C.W.I. joined the School Committee in running a Paddy's Market to raise money for the dressing sheds for the school baths. In May 1945 the meeting was postponed for V.E. celebrations and again in August the same year for Peace celebrations, and unfavourable weather.

In October 1948 Mrs. Darling received a Long Service Badge. After the war members continued to send food parcels to England, gave money to U.N. for starving children, and money for a spinning wheel for Corso. By May 1954 there were only eight members and a vote was taken on whether to close down or not, only one vote being the deciding factor. Mrs. G. King received a Good Service Badge, and Mrs. James a Long Service one.

Several more members joined, and in 1955 nine members went on a trip to Longbeach. Raffle tickets were sold for a snowball fund for Dominion Federation. A letter was received from the Health Department asking members to have a free X-ray while the Mobile Unit was in Timaru. Mrs. McNamara went to Wellington as our delegate in 1960, and Mrs. T. Wilson in 1962. Membership increased in the next few years, and evening meetings were tried, but did not seem to be very popular. Members put entries in the eisteddfod, and were successful with entries in the first field day held at Temuka. Several successful picnics were arranged, members hiring a bus and going to Peel Forest and Kelcy's Bush. Council and group meetings were well represented, also birthday parties.

Several members took a keen interest in the day schools run by the co-ordinating committee. These were of great benefit. Mrs. Applegarth (foundation member) received a Long Service Badge. In the latter half of 1960 half of our members left the district, and our membership now stands at ten.

# Winchester

FIRST MEETING, on July 8, 1931, in the library was held to discuss the formation of a Women's Institute in Winchester. Miss Stops, England — a voluntary organiser, addressed the meeting and after hearing all about the aims and objects of the Institutes it was unanimously carried that a W.I. should be formed in Winchester. The following were elected for a committee:

*President:* Mrs. J. C. South

*Secretary:* Mrs. S. Crosse (Protém) - October

Mrs. W. R. Pearce, Mrs. G. Burborough, Mrs. J. S. White, Miss Mabel Opie (Secretary, October-March, 1932)

Miss Stops suggested that a link should be formed with an Institute near Winchester, England, and the secretary was asked to write to Lady Cooper, Hursley Park, Winchester, England, with this object.

It was decided to meet on the third Tuesday in each month at 2.30 p.m. Mrs. G. A. M. MacDonald of the Orari Institute, very kindly motored Miss Stops to the meeting and with Mrs. Cook of Orari, they were most kind and helpful.

Second Meeting: The next meeting of the Winchester C.W.I. was held in the Victoria Hall. Roll calls were 'The best way to improve husbands, and suggestions for the monthly programme'. Demonstrations on the making of moccasins and thrift slippers were given by Mesdames MacDonald and Crosse respectively. The first of many community efforts was arranged; a concert and dance to augment funds for the renovation of the Victoria Hall. Later the sum of £8 was presented to the secretary of the Hall Committee. The meeting closed with the singing of the Institute song and the National Anthem. This meeting was held on July 21, 1931.

Folk dancing: On August 18 in the Waihi College grounds Mr. and Mrs. Cooke, Orari, instructed members in English folk dancing. Mrs. MacDonald, Orari, provided the music, 25 ladies taking part. This proved very popular with our members and later a team was entered in the Federation's Folk Dancing Festival held in Geraldine in 1933.

Christmas: First Christmas party was held on December 15, 1963, and took the form of a social, husbands, friends and local residents invited.

We joined the Temuka Group in 1932.

Link, 1932: A link was formed with the Sparsholt W.I., Winchester, England. A drama circle was formed and plays were entered in the Federation Drama Festival held at Geraldine. Later we were awarded second place in the Federation Drama Festival held in Geraldine, September 1946.



**Choirs:** An Institute choir formed proved popular with our members and a choir was entered in the Federations non-competitive choir competitions held in Timaru. Later Winchester was awarded the McKenzie Silver Cup, by gaining first place in the Federation Junior Choir Competitions under the baton of Mrs. J. De Renzy with Miss Mabel Opie accompanist, the choir gained third place in the Federations Choir Contest 1948. The choir sang carols around the district in 1945. Funds collected were used to send food parcels to our link and parcels to the soldiers during World War Two. This proved to be popular with both the public and members and was continued for many years. Mrs. F. Priddle provided the music, by playing an organ driven around on a truck.

**War effort:** Another war effort, members drove drays around the district and collected scrap metal and rubber which they loaded on to railways trucks at Winchester Station. The trucks were loaned by Messrs W. Pearce, J. Smith, J. De Renzy and W. Currie.

**Pageant 1939:** Members in conjunction with the Temuka Group participated in 'The Historical Pageant' organised by the Federation, under the leadership of Miss E. L. J. Davies, and was held in the Botanical Gardens, Timaru.

**Spring Flower Shows:** The first of many Spring Flower Shows was held in the Victoria Hall, September 1941. Favourable comments were made by the judges and public on the high standard achieved and the large number of entries displayed.

**Anniversaries:** The twenty-first anniversary took the form of a banquet followed by a social evening. Mrs. J. B. Smith presided, Mrs. C. J. Teale attended as the Federations delegate.

**Silver Jubilee:** Was held in the Victoria Hall, October 18, 1956. Mrs. W. R. Pearce presided. Mrs. McPhedran, Federation President and Mrs. E. L. Williams, first Federation President extended greetings.

**Dominion President:** The highlight of our Institute history was when we had the privilege of entertaining our Dominion President, Mrs. Markwick who attended our twenty-seventh birthday party which took the form of a social evening with entertainment provided by our members with plays, songs and choruses, which were favourably received and commended by Mrs. Markwick.

**First Annual Meeting:** March 15, 1932. 14 members attended. Officers elected:

*President:* Mrs. J. C. South re-elected

*Vice-president:* Miss M. Barker

*Secretary and Treasurer:* Mrs. W. R. Pearce

*Committee:* Mesdames J. Trimen, J. Patterson, J. Smith, G. South.

Mesdames Pearce and Triman appointed delegates to attend the Annual Federation Meeting, Geraldine.

Presentation of the United Nations flag to the primary school. For many years members took charge of a stall selling basketware for the blind at the Temuka A. and P. Show, from 1935 to 1961 a door to door collection for the blind appeal had been carried on. In 1969 a Certificate of Merit had been presented to the Institute from this organisation — hung in library.

On occasions our members had assisted with the planting of trees on the main highway.

We joined the C.W.I. Depot in 1932 and members contributed goods to be hold.

Royal visit: Members assisted with the decorating of the highway and township for the Royal visit to the district in 1954. An Institute decorated float was entered in the Temuka Centenary Procession held in the Winchester Domain, 1956. Institute combined with the Parent-Teachers Association and were instrumental in having the much needed conveniences erected in the Waihi River Camping Grounds. Thanks were extended to the Geraldine C.C. for their prompt response to their request.

Bays: The J. T. Brown Rose Bowl presented in 1956 for competitions, among women's organisations for decorated bays in the Temuka A. and P. Annual Show was awarded to Winchester Institute who have been successful eight times, 1956-70.

Conference: An Institute delegate has attended all Dominion Conferences since the formation of our Institute.

Mrs. R. Armstrong visited Britain 1968 and attended the Golden Jubilee Celebrations of our link in Sparsholt W.I.

The president and husband accepted an invitation to attend a reception in the Geraldine Rose Gardens to honour the Governor General and Lady Porritt, 1969.

Good and Long Service Badges have been awarded to: Mesdames De Renzy, W. R. Pearce, O. S. Priest, C. McClelland, J. S. Smith, D. Loudon, F. Priddle, J. B. Smith, A. Archibald, M. South, W. Brown, J. Greenall and Misses M. McCauley and E. Archibald.

At the Dominion Conference 1968, Mrs. W. R. Pearce was presented with a Gold Honours Badge by the Dominion President Mrs. H. L. Gane.

The following members elected to serve terms on the South Canterbury Federation Executive — Mesdames W. R. Pearce, O. S. Priest, J. B. Smith, D. Loudon, N. South.

Mrs. W. R. Pearce served eight years as a voluntary organiser.

The following gifts have been donated:—Red Cross, knitted booties and singlets; Presbyterian Orphanage, patchwork quilts and toys; Hospital, hot water-bottle covers, feeders, magazines,

linen; elderly citizens, jams, preserves and tinned foods and supplied entertainment for elderly citizens — Geraldine and Temuka.

Our Institute had been fortunate in being supported by a loyal band of enthusiastic and dedicated members.

Membership today, 1970: 37 members.

Members throughout the years have supported all Federation activities including pageants, festivals, eisteddfods and field days.

## Woodbury

THE FIRST MEETING was held in April 1929, one of the very first in South Canterbury. From the beginning it was a fortunate Institute in as much as there have been many outstanding women as members, not just as leaders but as faithful members who do so much quietly in the background. It was a big institute for many years, the peak was reached in 1931 when there were 100 members (average attendance being 60). In 1941 it was 77, in April 1951 it was 70. Now in 1970 it is 28. Of course in those early days the pace of life was slower and there was time to think: this shows up in the type of programmes which included such things as:—‘Talks on League of Nations’, ‘Early Days in Canterbury’, ‘Psychology of the Child’, ‘Music’, ‘Life on the Chatham Islands’, ‘Immigration’, ‘Dangers of Electricity’, ‘Local Government’ and many more. Women had less opportunities for interests outside their homes so the Institute day was a red letter one. Difficulties of transport were overcome by the strong spirit of neighbourliness that existed and which was fostered by the W.I. ideals. Woodbury’s community work over 41 years has been consistent and considerable. At the annual meeting of 1933 it was announced: ‘Wool from a fleece given by Miss Tripp and scoured by Mrs Sharp was distributed to members to make patches for the winter community quilt’. The hard times of the 1930s meant there were many outlets for the desire to help others. Then came the war of the early 40s and again there was a resurgence of this outgoing concern for others. It is interesting to note that in the very first few years they were making quilts of peggy squares for families in need. This is still done but they go overseas usually now. Perhaps here it could be mentioned that the first President, Mrs. Williams, who now resides in Talbot Hospital, still knits (and gets others in there to do the same). These squares come out to Woodbury and are made up by some of the members.

In a history of a branch of a worldwide movement it is perhaps invidious to mention names. But somehow



in the case of this Institute we must, being one of the really old ones. Our first president, Mrs. L. E. Williams was instrumental in getting W.I.s on their feet in South Canterbury. She gave outstanding service, not only to the local scene but to the movement as a whole. With her as secretary for the first year was Mrs. Wally Morris. The next year Mrs. S. C. Chisnall became secretary for five years. Both Mrs. Williams and Mrs. Chisnall went on to become valued as President and Treasurer of the Federation. Mrs. Chisnall later became Dominion Treasurer.

There were many good members over the years — early on there was Miss Ella Tripp a loyal friend and member who really first introduced the idea of an Institute to Woodbury, by getting Miss Spencer down to speak on the matter. There were Mesdames Turton, Drummond, Sharp, McClinton and many others. Miss E. L. J. Davies was most outstanding in her work in organising various events in the earlier days, such as pageants, birthday parties, etc. She gave many talks and slide evenings on her travels. She also acted as president for some years.

Another early president was Mrs. A. J. Kennedy. She was a foundation member and is still 'going strong'. It is not easy to assess her value to the Institute. She has great knowledge of procedure and is often called on for help. She was Treasurer also for some time. Woodbury also provided an editor for 'Home and Country' for a period. During Mrs. Barbara Harper's term the magazine was most successful.

The birthday party has been a highlight over the years. Sometimes it was held at the home of one of the early members — Orari Gorge, Waihi Bush etc., and they were very happy ones. For the fourth one in 1933 'it was decided that a charge of threepence be made at the door'. Some members were always willing to arrange plays, games, and competitions and so on. Generally speaking it was — and is still — a lighthearted institute. If you hear gales of laughter coming from the Woodbury Hall you know it is institute day. But the more serious side has never been lost sight of, the aspirations and prayer took on new meaning during the war. So many members had menfolk away, some who never returned. Silent prayer was the order at every meeting. Many soldier parcels were sent to local men. After the end of the war the Institute sponsored children (German, Greek and Italian) through the 'Save the Children Fund'.

During the depression years a Depot was opened in Timaru, this sold countrywomen's produce etc., and it was well supported by us. Sales tables have been held almost consistently and have provided finance for our own funds and enabled us to help worthy causes such as Leper Fund, Cancer Research and Health

Stamps. Poppies are sold for the R.S.A. each year. The War Memorial care was the responsibility of the Institute for some years. Trees were planted at Seadown when the Federation had this project on.

In 1963 when Geraldine formed a Aged Persons Welfare Association Woodbury W.I. fully co-operated.

Monthly Golden Thread has been a feature of the meetings with only a few breaks, various subjects being chosen. For a few years it was a garment for C.O.R.S.O. resulting, in 1949, in the total of over one thousand. Choral singing and drama have played a big part in the life of the Institute and prizes have been won at competitions and at the Eisteddfod which the Federation started in 1956. Floral work, fostered by monthly competitions, has been a big success. When, for some years, a Gymkhana was held at the Domain the Institute undertook the catering and this helped with the funds. Delegates have always been sent to Conference, also to the Federation annual and half-yearly meetings. We often seemed to be drawn in to act as hostess institute. Another responsibility has been the provision of morning tea at the Anzac Day service and many complimentary remarks have been made about this faithful task.

In 1932, the third year of it's life it was decided to 'link up' with two English Institutes—Woodbury in Devon and Hascombe in Surrey. These links still hold, various members over the years have written letters and received replies and this goes on even now. During the war food parcels went regularly, their gratitude was very evident. For some years the birthday cake, baked regularly by Mrs. Baker, was sent to the links. We have a beautiful tablecloth (used at every meeting) worked by one link, also a piece of lovely lace, which is framed. And many interesting books about their districts.

The Annual Flower Show (first held in 1936), has always been of a high standard. At various times the Institute has co-operated with the Adult Education Department in holding classes of dressmaking, millinery, basket-making, etc. Also over the years there have been demonstrations on all sorts of subjects. Many trips have been taken to such things as woollen mills, factories, printing works and nursery gardens. And to places of interest.

In 1969 it was decided to adopt a patient at Sunnyside Psychiatric Hospital as a mark of respect for Miss Davies in all she had done.

It is not easy to say how much the Institute has meant to the Woodbury district but on the whole it has given a great deal of pleasure and assistance in keeping alive the friendship and neighbourliness of the womenfolk. Even the sick visiting of our members has been a blessing to many. The pattern of life in Woodbury has changed since 1929, perhaps more in the

last twenty years than in the first. Our original President is often visited by members and continues to have a lively interest in our doings. Distances mean nothing now and the younger women prefer to go to bigger centres where they meet more people.

Looking back it would have been a much duller life without Institutes and the very fact that they have always maintained their undenominational character has helped womenfolk to keep a more open and tolerant mind. And through the international affiliations the way of life in other lands has become more real and the words of the aspirations ( 'that in the big things of life we are one' — and the 'great women's heart common to us all' ) so very true.

There are still three foundation members living: Mesdames Williams, McEvedy and Kennedy.



